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No 62,297



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MONDAY

In search of royal stones
Unravelling the mystery and history of the Royal Family gems

Captains of industry
The businessmen behind the CBI

Portfolio
£22,000 to be won

There is £22,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio competition - the £20,000 weekly prize and the daily one of £2,000.

Yesterday's £2,000 prize was shared by two winners, Mr Jonathan Clelland of Epsom, Surrey, and Mr Maurice Ballantyne of Winton, Devon.

Each received £2,000.

Portfolio list, page 24, weekly prize changes, Information Service, back page.

Reagan off to Geneva for summit

President Reagan leaves for Geneva this morning for two days of crucial talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. The meeting next week is regarded in Washington as the most momentous and testing of Mr Reagan's presidency.

Inflation 5.4%

The inflation rate fell to 5.4 per cent last month, the lowest since January. Page 21

Coup chief shot

General Doe's bodyguard shot dead the Liberian coup ringleader, Brigadier-General Thomas Quiwonkpa. Page 5

Rape charge

An unemployed man charged with the murder of a prostitute and two rapes has been further charged with a rape at Epsom, Surrey, on October 16.

Curb on coaches

All British coaches are to be fitted with a governor to prevent them travelling at more than 70 mph. Page 3

Teachers' strike

Up to 20,000 members of the National Union of Teachers will strike for two days next week in 35 targeted Conservative areas. Page 2

Pate ahead

David Pate, of the United States, reached the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges tennis championships when he beat Joakim Nyström, of Sweden. Page 35

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Letters: On Okhampton by-pass, from Mrs Lynda Chalker, MP, and Mr M. A. Sullivan; from archaeology congress, from Miss Diana Warwick

Leading articles: Northern Ireland; rugby and schools

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Dickie Wells; Meret Oppenheim

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Thatcher aims for Ulster peace in historic deal

From Richard Ford and Julian Haviland, Hillsborough, co Down

A joint Anglo-Irish agreement, which will allow the Irish Republic to contribute to policy in Northern Ireland for the first time since 1922, was signed yesterday by the British and Irish Prime Ministers.

Describing herself as "a Unionist and Loyalist", Mrs Margaret Thatcher, with Dr Garret FitzGerald sitting beside her in the white and gold drawing room of Hillsborough Castle, Co Down, appealed to all people of goodwill to join them in building peace and stability in Northern Ireland.

Dr FitzGerald said all the people of Northern Ireland, and the peoples of the rest of Ireland and of Great Britain would gain.

The agreement, the fruit of 15 months of secret negotiations, establishes a conference of British and Irish ministers which will meet frequently to discuss political, security and legal matters affecting Northern Ireland.

Dublin Government officials will join the small Secretariat which will service the conference.

The heart of yesterday's agreement, will empower the Irish government to make proposals, and will commit the two sides to make "determined efforts" to resolve differences.

If a devolved government is established in Northern Ireland, matters devolved to it would no longer be the concern of the conference. That is the inducement for Unionists who wish to keep Dublin at a distance.

If there is no agreement on devolution, the document says

Dublin can put forward its views in the conference on major policy issues and legislation where the minority's interests are significantly affected. But security matters will never be devolved.

Both governments pledge not to change the status of Northern Ireland without the consent of a majority. This guarantee is to be strengthened by the registration of the agreement at the United Nations.

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Leading article 9

Nations. But if in future the majority consents to a united Ireland, the two governments will promote legislation to achieve it. No British government has given such an undertaking before.

The agreement is subject to parliamentary approval in London and Dublin, and also to review after three years.

Mr Ian Gow, the Minister of State at the Treasury, has resigned in protest at the deal.

Most of the Unionist MPs, with their leaders Mr Ian Paisley and Mr James Moynihan, to the fore, repudiated the agreement before it was signed. They took a letter to Hillsborough for Mrs Thatcher, accusing her of treachery for negotiating with "a foreign Government which not only claims our territory but harbours the murderers of our people".

From the Republican side Mr Charles Haughey, leader of the

Opposition in Dublin, also criticized the agreement. He saw events as "a very sad day for Irish nationalism".

The two prime ministers at their joint press conference were equally anxious to stress that both Northern Ireland communities would be beneficiaries of yesterday's achievements.

Mrs Thatcher emphasized the security provisions and the possibility of an end to violence "the greatest prize of all".

She asked the Unionist doubters "Do you not wish to join in trying to end the violence? Do you not think you owe it to the bravery of all those young men and women in the Security forces who put their lives at risk to defend us, positively to help in bringing this agreement to a successful conclusion."

She said she had gone into the agreement because she was not prepared to tolerate continuing violence. "I want to offer hope for young people particularly that the cycle of violence and conflict can be broken."

Dr FitzGerald said there are no victors or losers. The agreement involved no abandonment of the nationalist aspirations nor any threats to unionist rights.

But he was naturally anxious to emphasize the advance which he believes he has secured for nationalism. Speaking in both Gaelic and English he said: "Nationalists can now raise their heads, knowing their position is and is seen to be on

Continued on page 2, col 6

Unionists denounce 'quislings'

By Richard Ford

As the two prime ministers arrived by helicopter at Hillsborough Castle, opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement was seen across the province.

In Hillsborough itself, it took the form of at least Unionist demonstrations and the burning of an Irish tricolour.

At Stewards, a east Belfast - in the building once described as a "Protest Parliament for a Protestant People" - Unionists joined the Rev Ian Paisley, saying: "The time for talking is over, the time for action has arrived."

In South Armagh, "bandit country", the Provisional IRA attacked a joint Army-RUC foot patrol near Crossmaglen. Constable David Hanson, aged 24, a single man from Lismore, co Antrim, was killed instantly and two colleagues were seriously injured. He is the 144th RUC officer to die since the troubles began and his death brings to 2,458 the total number of people killed since 1969.

Mr Gerry Adams, the MP for West Belfast and leader of Provisional Sinn Féin, said there was nothing in the accord which would lead him to call on the Provisional IRA and its ruling army council to end the violence.

Unionist leaders and their parliamentary allies are uncertain of their support among the wider Protestant community, and both Mr James Moynihan of the Official Unionists and Mr Paisley of the Democratic Unionists insisted they would mount a constitutional campaign within the law.

Although the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters said civil servants from the republic working on the joint secretariat would be considered legitimate targets.

And Mr John McMichael, of the "loyalist" paramilitary Ulster Defence Association said that while it was initially backing elected representatives, civil disobedience could follow if their campaign failed.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Ian Gow quits in protest at deal

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Ian Gow, the Minister of State at the Treasury and former Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, resigned yesterday over the Anglo-Irish agreement.

In a letter to Mrs Thatcher, he said the change of policy in Northern Ireland, including the involvement of a foreign power, in a consultative role in the administration of the Province "will prolong and not diminish the Ulster agony". He added: "I cannot support this change of policy. It follows that I cannot remain in your Government."

Mrs Thatcher knew of Mr Gow's resignation before he flew to Belfast yesterday to sign the accord. She had had a long discussion with him the previous evening and tried to dissuade him.

But after considering her words overnight, Mr Gow, the former Minister for housing and construction, decided that he could no longer remain in the Government.

But he made clear in a letter to the Prime Minister that apart from on Ulster policy, he would remain a staunch supporter of the government and of the Prime Minister personally. He said he rejected and resented Mr Enoch Powell's remarks accusing Mrs Thatcher of treachery in the Commons on Thursday.

Aside of Mr Gow's resignation, Mrs Thatcher is confident of support in Westminster for the agreement.

The opposition parties at Westminster yesterday assured the Government of overwhelming parliamentary backing for the Anglo-Irish agreement and bolstered the Cabinet's determination to withstand "loyalist" attempts to wreck it.

As senior ministers conceded that the deal could lead to mayhem in the province, Mr Neil Kinnock described it as a step towards ending the violence, waste and fear which had plagued Northern Ireland for so long.

The support of Mr Kinnock, Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen - who were all told the terms of the agreement before it

was signed - is seen as giving the Government the authority to block a repetition of the Unionist backlash which destroyed the power-sharing executive in Ulster in 1974.

The loyalist revolt in 1974 was assisted by the timing of the February general election of that year and Unionist leaders are thought to be far less sure of their support this time.

A Commons debate on the agreement is likely within the



Mr Gow: Cannot support policy change

next three weeks and a huge Government majority certain.

Mr Kinnock and his front bench Northern Ireland spokesmen are to visit the province soon to urge trade union, political and community leaders to take a "positive attitude" to the agreement, it was announced last night.

Mr Kinnock said that those who threatened further violence by word or deed, in opposition to the agreements demonstrated that they feared any progress.

In a statement issued jointly with Mr Roy Hattersley and his Northern Ireland spokesmen, he described the summit's outcome as a "modest step forward". The statement called on the Government to engage in an extensive programme of consultation and reassurance in both the Ulster communities.

Colombia is braced for more eruptions



Mud-covered survivors of the Nevado del Ruiz eruption walk down a road near Armero, the town which was engulfed by mud and ashes.

Death toll officially put at 20,000

From Trevor Fishlock and Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Colombia braced itself for more eruptions from the volcano Nevado del Ruiz yesterday as the death toll in the disaster was put officially at 20,000 with fears that it may rise even higher.

The volcano yesterday continued to belch out smoke, ash and sand, fueling fears that another major eruption was imminent.

Two scientists in the department of geology in the National University in Bogota say there will be more volcanic activity and have called for the urgent installation of seismographs to monitor the volcano.

Colombians meanwhile struggled desperately to cope with the terrible aftermath of its worst disaster. Radio stations broadcast lists of the dead in endless lists. Roads were full of thousands of distraught refugees fleeing wrecked and flooded towns. Hospitals were full of injured.

The national emergency committee appealed for supplies of blood, drugs, lamps, batteries, food and water. More than 1,400 schools were turned into refuge shelters.

Rescue teams and doctors struggled to reach isolated communities and survivors in the mountain valleys because roads and bridges were washed away. Helicopters and four-wheel drive vehicles were in heavy demand and hard-pressed.

Colombians are shocked by the scale of the disaster. Newspapers and television show devastation over thousands of square miles. People and animals and cars and debris float as if in giant gutters. It is too early to form a coherent picture of the damage and loss of life. The town of Armero no longer exists - an island of death.

Survivors were described by one eye-witness as "like persecuted animals unable to speak except for murmured religious chants. They are covered from head to foot in slime, their faces contorted in horror."

During the night, the air was filled with cries for help and a chorus of groans from the injured. Officials said 25,000 people were hurt throughout the disaster area.

Before a rescue airlift stopped for the night, survivors fought to clamber on to crowded helicopters and some were

Continued on back page, col 3

The ghostly cries of anguish as thousands wait for rescue

From Phil Davison of Reuter, Armero

Armero - At least 15,000 people had died, hundreds more were dying and, as I tried to sleep among the Ghost-like survivors of the Colombia volcano disaster, I felt as though I had died myself. Huddled on the cold, bare hilltop, known locally as La Loma (The Hill), every time I looked up I saw deathly figures - old men, women, and children, caked in dried grey mud, their hair stiff, only their eyeballs visible in the night to suggest they were still alive.

Candles, the only source of light, made the atmosphere even more eerie. More candles, and a few torches, were visible on nearby hilltops, where the several thousand survivors of the avalanche huddled, without food or water, waiting for rescue.

I had covered wars, revolutions and more recently September's earthquake in Mexico, but this was the most moving disaster I had seen. So many people dead, so many dying, so many more likely to die in a relatively small place.

I had arrived in a small helicopter just before dark on Thursday. Even as I jumped from its door, scores of injured survivors tried to board.

The pilot, a private citizen too modest to give his name but one of many unknown heroes here, could take only four injured with two of their

relatives crushed in beside them. I did not know then that it was the last helicopter to come to Armero yesterday. Night fell and I joined the walking wounded on a trek to the highest hilltop.

Most of the survivors, many almost naked, covered in mud, trembling and shocked, could not help each other. Each tried

Volcano's warning Photographs back page

only to stay alive on the hilltop, sometimes wailing, often crying for water. There was none.

So it was that I found myself carrying dying survivors up a steep muddy slope to La Loma. Not that there was anything there. But it was several hundred feet above Armero and the villagers, cold, hungry and desperately thirsty, and who feared another landslide or an eruption of lava from the Nevado del Ruiz volcano, felt fractionally safer there.

Just after dark, I spotted two figures huddled in a clearing about 30 yards below us. I scrambled down in pitch blackness, sliding through the mud, to find an old man in a foetal position, wrapped in a white sheet, and a little girl, maybe eight years old, pretty as a pearl, but both unconscious, covered in flies and simply waiting to die.

I shouted for help and a few young, numbed survivors came down. The girl, mumbling "Mami" (Mummy), had broken a leg, possibly her spine, and had a gash that revealed the inside of her right thigh.

We got both of them to a hilltop where they lay unnoticed by their shocked fellow survivors.

It was 20 hours after the initial catastrophe but there were no doctors, no nurses, no officials and no one who cared.

Without water or medicine, we nursed the seriously wounded to try to keep them alive but by dawn, about a dozen people had died.

Photographer Bob Strong spent that night among more shivering survivors, some of whom rested on corrugated iron sheets torn from a roof by the volcano's fury, where they lay beneath scraps of clothing salvaged from what was left of Armero.

More people huddled together under a makeshift shack last night, murmured on an island in a sea of mud.

Twenty people who saw their homes swept away by the avalanche on Wednesday were passing their second night in the open nearby.

For food they split coconuts with machetes and broke open bottles of wine that somehow survived the devastation.

Continued on back page, col 2

Sale of TSB postponed indefinitely

By Richard Thomson

Banking Correspondent

The Trustee Savings Bank announced yesterday that its flotation as a public company, scheduled for February, is to be postponed because of legal wrangles over ownership of the bank.

Sir John Read, TSB chairman, said that no launch date would be set until the appeals against a Scottish court ruling this week had been heard. Flotation before next summer was unlikely.

Plans for the sale, which is being handled by the Government, were upset by a ruling in the Scottish Court of Sessions that the TSB's assets were owned by its depositors. The view of the Government and the bank that no one owned the TSB, had been challenged by a depositor with TSB Scotland.

The Government is appealing against the ruling, but the TSB has decided that it cannot be completed before February. "We are disappointed, to say the least," Sir John said. "This is embarrassing to the Government and everybody else in the launch."

The TSB is withdrawing its £5 million advertising campaign, launched two weeks ago, publicizing the flotation. Sir John said the postponement would cost the TSB at least another £5 million.

This week the TSB said it would press on with the flotation despite the court's ruling. But the Treasury has made it clear that it will not announce a vesting day - the point when flotation becomes inevitable - until the case has gone to the Edinburgh Inner Court of Sessions and, if necessary, to the House of Lords.

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Teachers name 35 areas for two-day strike next week

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The National Union of Teachers announced yesterday that up to 20,000 of its members will go on strike for two days next week in 35 target areas.

They include Avon which contains the Bath constituency of Mr Christopher Patten, Minister of State for Education and Science; Leeds, which contains the constituency of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science; and Leicestershire, containing the constituency of Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The areas have also been chosen to put pressure on key members of the management side of the Burnham pay negotiating committee because they are local authorities which have retaliated against NUT members.

From November 25 the union will extend its action to include 40 marginal parliamentary constituencies. Fifteen of the original target areas will be affected by strikes for the third week running.

Target areas for next week: Avon, Bolton, Buckinghamshire, Doncaster, Durham, Dyfed, Mid South and West Glamorgan, Gwent, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Isle of Wight, Kent, Lancashire, Leeds, Leicestershire, London boroughs of Barnet, Bexley, Croydon, Ealing, Haringey, and Hammersmith and Fulham, Oxfordshire, Rotherham, Solihull, Somerset, Suffolk, Walsall, Walsley, Wiltshire, North Yorkshire.

Appraisal powers

Sir Keith said yesterday that he hoped appraisal of teachers' performance would be introduced voluntarily into schools.

Former Express chief retiring to Jersey

Lord Matthews, former chairman of Fleet Holdings and Express Newspapers, is retiring to Jersey after the company's take-over by United Newspapers.

The take-over left him £8 million richer, and it is estimated that tax savings through moving to the Channel Islands could be worth £1 million.

In a statement last night, Lord Matthews said he would not stand for re-election as deputy chairman and director of Trafalgar House plc.

"Although I have received a number of other offers I have decided to take things easier, and consequently will be retiring."

Lord Matthews ran Express Newspapers from 1977, when it was bought by Trafalgar House. Nearly four years ago Fleet Holdings' value was reckoned at £13 million. It was sold early last month for £31.7 million.

The company's new chairman is Mr David Stevens, chairman of United Newspapers.

duced voluntarily into schools.

In a speech intended to appease teachers' unions, which have threatened to boycott performance appraisal if introduced by law, the minister said he understood teachers' concern that appraisal might be linked directly to merit pay or be used by headteachers to give instant rewards or penalties.

Sir Keith was addressing a conference in Birmingham. In the new Education Bill, which will progress through Parliament this session, he was giving himself an enabling power, he emphasized.

"Whether it will be used will depend upon circumstances. There is much hope that regular teacher appraisal will be introduced voluntarily, as it can be now by agreement between employer and employee."

Merger proposed

A proposal to create a University of Staffordshire by merging a university and a polytechnic is made in a report to be published on Monday.

A merger of Keele University and North Staffordshire Polytechnic is recommended by the working party chaired by Mr Bernard Price, the county's chief executive, on the grounds of geography and finance.

Exams not needed

Strathclyde University is to admit 30 students on the basis of qualifications other than the standard Scottish Certificate of Education higher and ordinary grade passes from next year for a four-year trial period.

Candidates will undergo an interview, when they will have to show clear evidence of ability and motivation.

Accidents give clue to Volvo runaways

By Our Motoring Correspondent

The mystery of the "runaway" Volvo cars which have defied technical experts in Sweden and Britain for the past five years may have been solved after two recent accidents.

Like previous reported cases, they involved Volvo 340 automatics which apparently put themselves into gear and moved unaided.

Last night a spokesman for Volvo Concessionaires, the company which handles all Volvo car imports in Britain, said an investigation by Volvo and the Department of Transport had found that if the automatic selection lever was placed between Parking and Reverse the engine would start and the car move in reverse if the accelerator or choke were in use.

He said an urgent investigation was under way to try to improve the selection mechanism.

Early defiance by Unionists to Anglo-Irish agreement



Members of the Democratic Unionist Party who staged a protest at Hillsborough Castle before the agreement was signed.

Reagan welcomes promise of peace

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan yesterday welcomed the Anglo-Irish agreement, calling it a promise of peace and a new dawn for the troubled communities of Northern Ireland.

He pledged United States support for economic development and congratulated Mrs Thatcher and Mr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, on their "statesmanship, vision and courage."

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general, also joined in the praise, describing the agreement as "a fresh and promising approach to a difficult problem."

The agreement paved the way for the US to provide aid to the province. Britain has been told privately that Congress would almost certainly be willing to appropriate aid of between \$500 million and \$1,000 million. Additional aid could also possibly come from Australia.

Benefits from signing of terrorism convention

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The signing by the Irish Republic of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, indicated in the communiqué, would enormously aid cooperation between police forces to bring terrorists to justice.

Under international law it is customary that extradition is not possible for political offences, and many countries have written into their constitutions that extradition for such reasons is barred.

What the Convention does is say that for the purposes of extradition between contracting States, key terrorist acts are no longer to be regarded as political offences. They include hijacking, kidnapping, hostage-taking and offences which endanger life, limb or liberty of "internationally-protected persons", including diplomats.

UDR central in war with terrorists

Continued from page 1

an equal footing with that of members of the Unionist community.

He promised Unionists who, he said, had suffered a tragic and repulsive onslaught on their right to life and well-being, that the agreement offered "a way forward towards the restoration of normal life without violence or fear."

The two prime ministers had arrived at Hillsborough by helicopter from Aldergrove airport. Mrs Thatcher, in a navy suit and symbolic red, white and blue blouse, was accompanied by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as well as the senior civil servants who negotiated the agreement.

With Dr FitzGerald was his deputy, Mr Dick Spring, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peter Barry.

Mrs Thatcher's copy of the agreement was in a red folder while Dr FitzGerald's was in a green one. They smiled and shook hands after the signing at 2pm, the left with Mrs Thatcher quipping: "We've got to read it."

'Quislings' denounced

Continued from page 1

Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that the agreement would open political dialogue between the parties in the province but he gave no commitment to entering the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Mr Hume, the unseen shadow of yesterday's signing ceremony, had welcomed the proposals as a way forward. Mr Molyneux, who led nine of his eleven Westminster MPs to the gates of Hillsborough, denounced the deal and accused the Northern Ireland Office ministers of being "quislings" prepared to do Dublin's dirty work.

Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down South, was absent. Some Unionists were privately angry about his accusing Mrs Thatcher of treachery, thereby "ensuring that the Commons would rally behind her."

Mr Paisley said Mrs Thatcher had failed to live up to her image as an Iron Lady. Ulster was British, and was resolved to remain so. He called on Unionists to follow their elected representatives but warned them it would be a long struggle.

Mr Gerry Adams, fighting on behind her.

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Thatcher aims for peace through deal

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29 football fans may face death charges

By Our Lobby Reporter

Up to 29 British football supporters may be charged with murder or manslaughter after the riot which preceded the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus in May, it was disclosed yesterday.

Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, is expected to decide shortly if charges should be preferred after taking the advice of leading counsel which is examining a file prepared by Merseyside police.

Thirty-eight spectators died in the riot which broke out at the Heysel stadium in Brussels before the match on May 29.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said yesterday that English courts had jurisdiction only to try British people for offences of murder or manslaughter committed at the football match.

Pay strategy again rejected

Leaders of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, the second largest Civil Service union, yesterday rejected the Government's offer of a long-term pay system after decision by other unions earlier this week.

Senior officials of all Civil Service unions will on Tuesday consider the split over the scheme and try to agree on a common strategy for next year's pay claim.

With Dr FitzGerald was his deputy, Mr Dick Spring, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peter Barry.

Mrs Thatcher's copy of the agreement was in a red folder while Dr FitzGerald's was in a green one. They smiled and shook hands after the signing at 2pm, the left with Mrs Thatcher quipping: "We've got to read it."

The two prime ministers had arrived at Hillsborough by helicopter from Aldergrove airport. Mrs Thatcher, in a navy suit and symbolic red, white and blue blouse, was accompanied by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as well as the senior civil servants who negotiated the agreement.

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New rules on animal tests

New rules on animal experiments are included in a Bill published yesterday to replace the Cruelty to Animals Act. A project licence will be required for each experiment, and controls will be established for the first time on the places which breed or supply some commonly used animals. The latter is aimed at stopping the trade in stolen pets.

Penalties for breaking the new law will be up to two years imprisonment, a fine or both.

Six freed

Six people held by Scotland Yard under the Prevention of Terrorism Act after bombs were found outside Chelsea Barracks earlier this week have been released.

Correction

A photograph in some editions yesterday of a medieval game showed Mr Ian Stewart, not Mr Malcolm Watkins, as stated. The game board is thought to have been made in the eleventh, not the fourteenth century.

Law Society results

G C J Lawson (2nd class honours) and S J Sullivan were omitted from part A of the Law Society's summer final examination results yesterday. The name of P H Somers appeared incorrectly as R H Somers.

The Times overseas selling prices

The Times overseas selling prices are: £1.50 per copy (including postage) in the United Kingdom; £2.50 per copy (including postage) elsewhere.

Rhinotracheitis, which causes flu-like symptoms, has reached epidemic proportions, according to veterinary surgeons.

Turkey supply

Large turkeys will be scarce this Christmas because a virulent disease with no known cure has swept through breeding stock.

£99,500 award

A police authority which failed to provide Nato-style helmets for officers taking part in anti-riot training was held negligent by a judge in the High Court yesterday.

Former PC Anthony Mathews, aged 32, was awarded £99,500 for a head injury.

Woman's words 'too much' for soldiers

The language of a woman soldier said to have been raped by a gang of paratroopers was too much for at least two other men. Winchester Crown court was told yesterday.

More breakaway miners vote to accept 6%

A further 4,000 miners are set to receive pay increases of between 6 per cent and 7 per cent after a vote at five pits to accept the National Coal Board's offer to what will next month become the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The miners in south Derbyshire and the Daw Mill colliery in Warwickshire, which has also voted to break away from the National Union of Mineworkers, voted by 86.3 per cent to accept the board's offer made in negotiations separate from those with the NUM.

Of the 3,051 who voted, representing a 75.6 per cent turnout, 2,633 voted in favour of accepting the offer, which yields basic rate increases of £5.50 or about 4 per cent for the higher paid face workers together with 50p per shift increases on incentives along with a so-called "loyalty bonus" of just over £100 in recognition of miners in the area having worked during the year-long strike.

The vote, which was welcomed yesterday by Mr Ken Toon, south Derbyshire area secretary and president-designate of the UDM, came after a discussion on the breakaway at a meeting in London of the NUM executive.

Two leading moderates on the executive, Mr Trevor Bell of the white collar colliery staff, and Mr Jack Jones, Leicestershire area secretary, argued at the meeting that the board was working closely with the UDM to help its recruitment.

Britain accused of scrimping on science cash

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

Britain is trying to maintain its science base on the cheap, the retiring chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council, Sir John Kingman, says in his last annual report, published yesterday. Investment in basic science is an investment in the long-term future of the nation, and an inadequate level of that investment will ensure our eventual decline, he adds.

The theme was echoed by Professor E W J Mitchell, who has succeeded as chairman, and who said: "If we do not fund strategic research we will not be able to make discoveries of economic significance, or be in a position to take advantage of others' discoveries and inventions."

PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 15 1985

Curbs on fast coaches and talking drivers

ROAD SAFETY

Government plans to have high-speed coaches fitted with speed governors as a means of reducing motorway accidents were announced in the Commons by Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, in a debate on road safety.

As for lorries, if the road haulage lobby did not put its own house in order, governors were always a possibility for the future, she warned. It would not be right to change the 70mph speed limit on motorways.

She also said the Government wanted to get drivers to concentrate better. A particular aspect of concern was the use of microphones and, more recently, car radio telephones. Another was coach drivers giving commentaries.

Please (she said) no one should use a car telephone when they are driving. They should be stationary and in a safe place before using them.

The department had concluded that in view of the evident risk that distraction might lead to danger, stronger action was needed. She would be consulting, as soon as possible, to amend the Highway Code so that drivers should not use hand-held microphones or radio-telephones while their vehicle was moving.

There would also, through amended regulations, be a specific ban on sustained and regular sightseeing commentaries by coach drivers. Brief announcements to passengers would be permitted, as these were often helpful.

Mrs Chalker said the right way to tackle the motorway speed problem was to enforce the 70 miles an hour coach limit through a legal requirement for all coaches to be fitted with speed governors. These would be sealed units made as tamper-proof as possible.

She told MPs that to confine coaches to the roadside or centre lanes would be likely to add to the hazards which already existed as a result of bunching and tail-gating (driving too close to the vehicle in front). Anybody who increased the mixed convoy situation would be undesirable.

When Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman, referred to

unrealistic coach timetabling, Mrs Chalker indicated she would be taking up the matter of timetable in her talks with coach operators.

Overnight, timetable (she said) places a pressure on the drivers and it is something the operators must look at.

Mrs Chalker said some speed limit devices were already available and were being tried by some coach operators. They could be set and scaled to regulate the flow of fuel to the engine so that a fuel cut had would operate at 70 miles an hour.

My department (she said) will start discussions with all those concerned - vehicle manufacturers, equipment manufacturers and coach operators - to develop this proposal and work out as soon as possible a timetable and a suitable technical specification.

All the relevant aspects of the device, including its effectiveness in speed control, its fail-safe characteristics, its tamper-proof making

Coaches to have 70 mph speed governors but safety doubts remain

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

All British coaches are to be fitted with 70 mph speed governors after last month's coach crash when 13 died on the M6.

But doubts immediately arose over:

Foreign coaches, regarded by many as the main culprits for speeding on British roads. Britain cannot make restriction rules for other countries' coaches.

Reliability: some speed governors on the market are regarded as unreliable, and even as a possible danger by limiting acceleration power in an emergency.

Tampering: most governors can be tampered with, though it takes time and expertise to do so.

Announcing proposals in the Commons yesterday Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said talks would take place with manufacturers to evolve a specification that

would be effective, and as tamper-proof as possible.

Parliament would then be asked to approve changes in the construction and use regulations making speed governors compulsory on all public service vehicles used on motorways and capable of more than 70 mph. About 30,000 vehicles could be affected.

The move was welcomed by the Bus and Coach Council, as was the absence of any proposal to ban coaches from the outside lane on motorways, but with some reservations about the equipment available.

Several hundred British coaches are already fitted with governors, and according to the council, "this on-the-road experience leads us to have reservations as to whether all of the presently available equipment is sufficiently developed and reliable to be the subject of regulation."

Most governors work by restricting fuel supply by means

of a pre-set sensor. It limits speed by acting on the linkage between accelerator and carburettor, usually through a link with the tachograph.

Governors cost between £300 and £600 to fit and are admitted to have a margin of error of perhaps 7.5 mph. They can also be tampered with by the driver, but the equipment could well require to be re-wired and re-soldered.

A warning went out from Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport last night that the department might carry out a new year purge against coach drivers giving microphones commentary while driving. This was illegal and could be dangerous, Mr Mitchell said. A modification is expected to the Highway Code next year warning all drivers with car radio telephone of the need for maximum concentration on driving at all times.

Parliament, page 2

Bank 'held up by woman'

From Tim Jones, Newport

Brandishing an imitation pistol and a bag of candles to look like dynamite, Deborah Aytoun walked into the Midland Bank at Chepstow, Gwent, and threatened to blow it up, a court was told yesterday.

Miss Aytoun, a law graduate, aged 31, handed a note to the cashier which ordered her to hand over money and claimed that a limpet mine had been attached to the counter which would explode if the alarm was raised within 10 minutes.

Mrs Patricia Harrington, for the prosecution, told Newport Crown Court that Miss Aytoun had, dressed in a gaudy, woolen hat and gloves to give the impression she was a man.

Miss Aytoun, who gave her address as Stretford Court, Winchester, but who had also been living at Penhow Castle, Newport, pleaded guilty to charges of demanding money with menaces, placing fake sticks of dynamite on the counter and possessing an imitation Buzza pistol.

A charge of robbing the bank of £1,600 was left on the file by Mr Justice Patten, after she had pleaded not guilty. He adjourned the case until next week before hearing defence submissions.

Shops Bill faces a tough passage

By Gregory Neale

Unrestricted shopping hours could be enacted by next summer, if the Government's Shops Bill, published yesterday, survives what is likely to be a rough passage through Parliament.

The Bill would abolish all statutory restrictions on general closing hours in England, Wales and Scotland, repeal the general prohibition on Sunday trading in England and Wales, and protect shop workers from having to work on Sundays in their present jobs.

The Government measure was welcomed by consumer organizations and some of the larger retailers, but it encountered renewed hostility from the shopworkers' union, the churches and some smaller retailers groups.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, told a London press conference that the present law was "messy, riddled with anomalies. Abolishing the present restrictions on Sunday trading would not change the character of the traditional British Sunday, and would have wide public support, he said.

"Most people do not think that there should be a law to govern the times shops may

open", he said. "Many certainly do not believe it should be a criminal offence to open a shop on a Sunday."

Mr David Tippler, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment and minister responsible for tourism, said Sunday trading could lead to new jobs.

He said a study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimated that if trade increased by 2 per cent some 22,000 new jobs might result.

The Bill, which has been introduced formally in the House of Lords, is due to receive its second reading there on November 26. It provides for the repeal of Part I of the Shops Act 1950, which requires shops to close early one day a week and prescribes general evening closure hours, and also would repeal Part IV of the Act, which requires shops generally to be closed on Sundays in England and Wales, and limits the items which may be sold.

Shop workers in employment before the Bill becomes law would acquire the statutory right not to be dismissed or have any other action taken against them if they refused to work on Sundays.

RAC reshapes rescue service

By Clifford Webb Motoring Correspondent

Increasing competition from newer motoring organizations wooing motorists for their "jet you home" business is forcing the Royal Automobile Club, the pioneer of roadside assistance in Britain, to cut staff and reshape its services.

About 100 office workers are being made redundant and others moved to new jobs. Overheads are being reduced sharply to provide an extra £6 million this year, to be spent on increasing the number of patrols and improving rescue and recovery services.

One of the fastest-growing newcomers is the National Breakdown Recovery Club (NBRC), recently taken over by National Car Parks and heavily promoted on NCP sites. For an annual subscription of £41.50, compared with the RAC's

£47.50, it claims to offer a much faster response time.

An NBRC spokesman said yesterday: "We use 1,500 carefully-selected garages instead of our own patrols. Our average response time is 45 minutes."

The newcomers are being actively encouraged by Mr Michael Spicer, Parliamentary

Under Secretary for Transport, who recently visited NBRC's headquarters in Bradford.

The Automobile Association, the biggest motoring organization in the world, with 5.95 million members, said: "We thrive on competition. We are growing all the time and expect to pass the six million mark next year."

RESPONSE TIME AND COSTS

Organization	Members	Patrols	Annual calls	Response time	Subscription
AA (founded 1905)	5.95m	3,300	25m	Eight out of 10 within 1 hour	£47.50
RAC (1897)	2.5m	1,000	1m	20m, 10 most areas	£47.50
National Breakdown Recovery Club (NBRC) (1977)	311,000	1,200	19,000	45 minutes	£41.50
Red Flowers (1972)	30,000	500	10,000	Subs refunded if over 90 minutes	£28.95 under 10 years, £37.50 over
Motors (UK) (1980)	300,000	600	30,000	35-40 minutes	£42.50
Britannia Rescue (1982)	100,000	600	29,800	30-40 minutes	£28

Heart-lung patient looks to new life

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

Six months ago Miss Julie Bennett was confined to a wheelchair. It was an enormous effort just to walk across a room.

But last week Miss Bennett walked between three and four miles on a shopping spree. And she does regular household chores in the flat she is temporarily using in the grounds of Papworth Hospital, Cambridge.

Miss Bennett, aged 20, one of the first heart-lung transplant patients, was born her new lease on life on October 10 by a team of doctors led by Mr John Wallwork, the surgeon. This weekend she returns home to Chepstow, Gwent, where she used to work for a jeweller.

Born with cystic fibrosis, Miss Bennett had lived a normal life until a secondary infection earlier this year caused her lungs to become congested and too badly damaged for her to breathe properly. In almost every other case, the disorder would have ruled out the possibility of a heart-lung transplant.

"At the beginning of the year I could hardly get up. After the chest infection I found I had to stop every few paces to take deep breaths. I used to pretend I was looking for someone in the distance that anyone near me would not notice I was distressed," she said.



Miss Julie Bennett in her flat at Papworth Hospital

Her condition deteriorated rapidly by June as an oxygen cylinder was always close by to help her breathe, and she was then admitted as an emergency patient to the Brompton Hospital, London.

As a cystic fibrosis sufferer, her chances of meeting the criteria under which a heart-lung operation is performed were remote. The frail condition of most cystic lung sufferers usually rules them out, even before the immune system is considered.

The doctors told her that her mental attitude was vital. "The way they put it is that we can't breathe for you and cough for you after you have new lungs", she said.

Treadmill exercises have been a vital part of Miss Bennett's recovery and she now also runs and spends long periods breathing deeply to keep the lungs clear.

Child may have died 'after fit'

A pathologist told Birmingham Crown Court yesterday

that Gemma Hartwell, aged 22 months, died after having a fit or she could have been a victim of "cot death" syndrome.

Dr Ian Rushon, who carried out a post-mortem examination on the child, told the court that pathologically there was nothing to exclude sudden death. Pinpoint haemorrhages found in her internal organs were indistinguishable from those found in cot death victims.

But he said it was more likely that after a ball of wool was pushed into the child's mouth, a shortage of oxygen led her to have a fit.

Mr Phillip Hartwell, aged 30, of Waterworks Road, Edgbaston Birmingham, has denied murdering and ill-treating his daughter.

The child's body was recovered from a woodland grave near Birmingham last March, 16 days after social workers allowed her to return to live with her parents. She had been in care since birth.

The trial continues.

Show stopper

The comedy actor, Rodney Bewes, has paid the management of the New Theatre to cancel today's matinee performance of *Boeing-Boeing* so that he can watch Newcastle United play Chelsea at St James's Park.



Mr de Savary flanked by Mr David Blackmore (left) and Mr Mike Morris in Civil War uniforms outside Littlecote House (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Littlecote to be theme park

By Geraldine Norman

Mr Peter de Savary, the businessman, announced yesterday that he intends to share his Tudor mansion, Littlecote House, in Wiltshire, with the public, and will spend \$6 million to convert the property into an historical theme park. He wants it open by Easter.

In partnership with the Royal Armouries, the rabbit warren of little rooms in the

medieval part of the house will be turned into a Civil War display.

The Armouries are to buy from Mr de Savary for £580,000 the buff coats, helmets, muskets, carbines and other arms worn by the troops of local soldiers raised by Col Alexander Popham, of Littlecote, to fight for Cromwell.

The arms, which have hung in the Great Hall since the seventeenth century, will be

joined by waxworks figures of guards.

In the park the Littlecote Roman Research Trust, a group of archaeologists, has spent eight years excavating a Roman villa beside the river Kennet, which has the best-preserved Roman mosaic pavement in Britain.

Mr de Savary said that he wanted to reconstruct a whole Roman villa. Sale room, page 10

Art forger 'wanted to ridicule experts'

A self-styled Scottish Tom Keating has been duping the Edinburgh art establishment for more than two years, fobbing off such authorities as Christie's and the Fine Arts Society with his own fakes.

Anthony Conduct, aged 29, a picture restorer, claimed in court in Edinburgh yesterday that he was motivated by neither greed nor personal gain, but to expose his former employer, William Jackson, an acknowledged expert, and owner of the reputable Scottish Gallery in Edinburgh.

Conduct also wanted to ridicule Sotheby's, Christie's and Phillips who, he claimed, do not value paintings by the quality of the art in the frame but by the labels and documentation on the back which is used to judge the authenticity of the work.

This information, he added, came from his former employer, William Jackson. Having left the Scottish Gallery in December 1979 where he had been head restorer, and where he had also argued with Jackson about unfair pay, Conduct over the next three years stole 3,000 picture labels and five record ledgers from the gallery.

Using his painting skills, the labels and a network of friends, he flooded the market with fakes. The friends were instructed to say the painting had been left to them.

Now ripples of dismay are flowing through the Scottish art world as labels from the Scottish Art Gallery had hitherto been considered a sure sign of authenticity. Deputy Fiscal Mr John Young said yesterday that there were even paintings presently in the Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh which were "uhung". Perhaps only Mr Conduct can tell if they are fakes or the real thing.

Conduct admitted fraud and forgery and Sheriff Peter McNeill deferred sentence till December 6 for background reports.

Three life terms for man who raped girl

A man aged 40 was jailed for life yesterday for raping a girl aged 13 just seven months after being released on parole for raping two teenage girls.

Alan Grant, from Manchester, a heavy goods vehicle driver, had subjected the girl to a four-hour ordeal in a hire car Preston Crown Court was told.

He has served less than two years of a four-year sentence for the rape of a girl aged 14 and another aged 15 when he was released on parole.

Grant pleaded guilty yesterday to one offence of rape, two of attempted rape and one of abduction. He was given three life sentences to run concurrently and a five-year jail term also to run concurrently on the abduction charge.

The judge, Mr Justice Macpherson, told him: "You are a continuing and positive menace. You are not mentally ill but suffer from a personality disorder."

"I have no doubt whatsoever that a life sentence is proper in this case. In my judgement the right course is to impose an indeterminate sentence on you so others can decide when, if ever, you are released."

The judge had been told that Grant was also jailed for 12 months in March 1977 for indecently assaulting a girl aged five. Two years later he was jailed again for another year for an indecent assault on a girl aged seven.

Mrs Morley's daughter dies

Kathryn Morley, the adopted daughter of Miss World organizers, Eric and Julia Morley, died yesterday, aged 17. She had been almost paralysed by a disease of the central nervous system which she had had since birth.

Mrs Morley received a message during the Miss World contest on Thursday that her daughter's condition had become critical.

Life begins at...

60

64 FOR 0

1st BATSMAN T.I.

68

69

EAST 61st STREET

65

66

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70

...take your pick

Who says life begins at forty? It's only when you've retired that you're really free to enjoy yourself. To live where you choose; to visit faraway places; to pursue your hobbies and interests at your leisure, instead of cramming them into the few hours available in the evening or at weekends.

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Political breakthrough that took 12 years to achieve

Complete text of Anglo-Irish agreement on Ulster

The following is the full text of the communiqué issued yesterday giving the terms of the Anglo-Irish agreement reached on Thursday.

1. The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, FRSE, MP, and the Taoiseach, Dr Garret FitzGerald, TD, met at Hillsborough on 15 November, 1985. It was the third meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council to be held at the level of Heads of Government.

2. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Tom King, MP. The Taoiseach was accompanied by the Tánaiste, Mr Dick Spring, TD, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peter Barry, TD.

3. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach signed a formal and binding Agreement between their two Governments, which will enter into force as soon as each Government has notified the other of acceptance. The Agreement has the aims of promoting peace and stability in Northern Ireland; helping to reconcile the two major traditions in Ireland; creating a new climate of friendship and co-operation between the people of the two countries; and improving co-operation in combating terrorism.

4. The Agreement deals in particular with the status of Northern Ireland and the establishment of an Intergovernmental Conference in which the Irish Government will put forward views and proposals concerning stated aspects of Northern Ireland affairs; in which the promotion of cross-border co-operation will be discussed; and in which determined efforts will be made to resolve any differences between the two Governments.

5. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach committed themselves to implementing the measures set out in the Agreement with determination and imagination and undertook to encourage people of both the unionist and nationalist traditions in Ireland to make new efforts to understand and respect each other's concerns with a view to promoting reconciliation.

6. The exchange of notifications of acceptance will not be completed until the Agreement has been approved by the British Parliament and by Dail Eireann. The two Governments intend that action to implement the provisions of the Agreement should begin once the exchange of notifications has been completed. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference will take place as soon as possible thereafter. The British side will be led by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Irish side by the Minister designated as the Permanent Irish Ministerial Representative.

7. The two Governments envisage that the meetings and agenda of the Conference will not normally be announced. But they wish it to be known that, at its first meeting, the Conference will consider its future programme of work in all the fields - political, security, legal, economic, social and cultural - assigned to it under the Agreement. It will concentrate at its initial meetings on:

- relations between the security forces and the minority community in Northern Ireland;

- ways of enhancing security co-operation between the two Governments; and

- seeking measures which would give substantial expression to the aim of underlining the importance of public confidence in the administration of justice.

In the interests of all the people of Northern Ireland the two sides are committed to work for early progress in these

screening of an investigation into the death of John Mikkelsen, aged 32.

Lord Justice Watkins said he did not think that *The London Programme* investigation intended to "muddy the waters of justice" but he had no doubt that the screening of the programme would create a substantial risk that the coroner's inquest into the death would be prejudiced.

Two Court of Appeal judges yesterday upheld a ban on London Weekend Television from conducting a "trial by television" of the death of a Hell's Angel who died in police custody.

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Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald signing the Anglo-Irish agreement yesterday.

The long road from Sunningdale

By Richard Ford

The first significant attempt by British and Irish governments to break the political stalemate in the North was made 12 years ago.

Five months later the high hopes of Mr Edward Heath and Mr Liam Cosgrave had when the agreement was signed at Sunningdale were dashed and the initiative was in ruins. Many of the leading Civil Servants along with Dr Garret FitzGerald and Mr John Hume, the Social Democrats and Labour Party were deeply involved in that initiative and the ensuing years have taught them all a harsh lesson. This latest attempt is much less ambitious.

Against this background, the Taoiseach said that it was the intention of his Government to accede as soon as possible to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

8. In addressing the improvement of relations between the security forces and the minority community, the Conference at its first meeting will consider:

a. The application of the principle that the Armed Forces (which include the Ulster Defence Regiment) operate only in support of the civil power, with the particular objective of ensuring as rapidly as possible that, save in the most exceptional circumstances, there is a police presence in all operations which involve direct contact with the community;

b. Ways of underlining the policy of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and of the Armed Forces in Northern Ireland that they discharge their duties even-handedly and with equal respect for the unionist and nationalist identities and traditions.

9. In its discussions of the enhancement of cross-border co-operation on security, the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference will give particular attention to the importance of continuing and enhanced co-operation, as envisaged in Article 9(a) of the Agreement, in the policing of border areas.

10. In addition to concluding the new Agreement, the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach reviewed the wide range of work

Sunningdale set up a power sharing executive comprising nationalist and unionist politicians at Stormont.

The agreement recognized "an Irish dimension" and proposed a 14-member council of Ireland to be used for consultation between the north and south.

The republic hoped the council would develop real powers and it was proposed that it would eventually be consulted on appointments to the police forces and might oversee security policy.

But it was challenged in the Irish courts as running counter to the republic's constitution and the Westminster general election in February 1974, gave unionist opponents their chance.

Moderate supporters of the late Lord Faulkner, Down Patrick, then chief executive of the power-sharing arrangement, failed to win a single seat and his opponents began an all-out campaign to destroy the executive which culminated in a two-week workers' council strike.

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx (then Mr Harold Wilson), denounced "loyalists" for "sponging off the British taxpayer" but troops were not used to take on the strikers and in May 1974 the executive resigned and direct rule was reimposed.

The results will be particularly significant for the Partido do Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (PMDB), the main party within the ruling coalition. This party emerged as the country's strongest political force during the 31 years of military rule largely because, for much of the period, it was the only opposition party tolerated by the generals.

During that period, the party became a ragbag of conflicting political factions, who were only brought together by their common opposition to the military. The big question now is whether or not this party, which still embraces a wide variety of views, though it can be broadly defined as left-of-

centre, can firmly establish itself as a party, not of opposition, but of government.

Early in the campaign it looked as if the PMDB was disintegrating.

Seriously alarmed at the unexpected prospect of defeat, the PMDB put an end to most of the infighting and moved into action its powerful party machine. It has clawed its way into the lead in most of the south, though candidates supported by Senator Leonel Brizola, the charismatic leader of the Partido Democrático Trabalhista (PDT), are heading for victory in Rio, Porto Alegre and Curitiba.

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Alarm over safety margins

Spate of crashes raises doubts about US air traffic control

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A surge in air traffic problems has raised new alarms about the margin of safety in the skies above America. There is also deep concern about a puzzling rash of incidents on the ground.

The danger is particularly acute over exceptionally busy areas like New York, where air traffic has reached a saturating point because of swarms of small corporate aircraft ferrying executives across the country.

A mid-air crash involving two small planes over the New York suburbs in New Jersey on Sunday last week dramatically demonstrated the danger. A single-engine Piper Cherokee and a corporate-owned Falcon 50 slammed into each other, sending flaming wreckage and fuel to the ground. Six people died and half a block of houses and other buildings were destroyed.

But despite the obvious dangers of overcrowded skies, there is no single obvious cause of the continuing escalation of crashes and near misses, therefore no single, simple solution.

Worldwide, 1985 is already the worst year for deaths in airline accidents. The causes vary widely, from error by controllers to pilot error, poor procedures,

technical deficiencies in the air traffic control system that cause the greatest worry.

The system has never fully recovered from the dismissal in 1981 of 11,000 striking air traffic controllers by President Reagan. Immediate restrictions were imposed on traffic volume but they have now mostly disappeared. Today's comparatively inexperienced controllers are handling more traffic than their predecessors, yet their numbers are still slightly short of the previous level.

A recent congressional subcommittee report, "rebuilding of the Nation's Air Traffic Control System", concluded that morale is low and psychological problems are high. Controllers frequently have to work at their positions for two or more hours of intense traffic.

The report gave evidence of continued overwork of controllers and said the air traffic control system was often pushed to its capacity limits. According to Federal Aviation Administration figures there were 359 near mid-air collisions in 1981; 311 in 1982; 478 in 1983; and 592 last year.

The figures this year are likely to demonstrate a continu-

ing decline in air safety, focussing principally on the quality of air traffic control. An inquiry is now under way, for example, into whether Washington National airport's control tower was understaffed when an Eastern Air Lines jet nearly hit a helicopter recently. According to one account, several controllers were absent on a golf outing.

Relations between controllers and their management seem to be appalling. Controllers, who are again organizing unions, complain of excessive overtime, overwork, failure to communicate decisions, denial of sick leave and curbs on annual leave. The continuing use of supervisors as controllers is cited as proof that all is not well.

A group of Congressmen, contending that flying is becoming less safe, urged President Reagan this week to rehire some of the air traffic controllers dismissed in 1981. Mr Guy Molinari, a Republican Congressman from New York, said: "We are concerned about the very serious lack of experience in our current controller workforce and a steadily diminishing level of safety."

Election test facing Brazil's new ruler

From Sue Branford, São Paulo

The Brazilian Government yesterday faced its first electoral test since it came to office in March. Though President José Sarney has been careful to distance himself from the campaign, the results of these mayoral elections due today, will have an important impact on national politics.

Elections were held in 25 state capitals and 176 towns previously classified by the military Government as "areas of national security" and thus hitherto administered by officials appointed by the Federal Government. All political parties have campaigned intensely over the past few months.

The results will be particularly significant for the Partido do Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (PMDB), the main party within the ruling coalition. This party emerged as the country's strongest political force during the 31 years of military rule largely because, for much of the period, it was the only opposition party tolerated by the generals.

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An ascetic takes helm in Bangkok

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Thailand's foremost exponent of good, clean living, elected Governor of Bangkok, but he has promised not to interfere with the city's disreputable night life.

Major-General Chamling Srimuang, aged 58, whose regime as a devoted Buddhist is "no meat, no alcohol, no sex, no sex", won a landslide victory over nine other candidates. He eats one vegetarian meal a day, sleeps on the floor and has abstained from sexual relations with his wife for six years.

He says he will not impose his personal views on Bangkok citizens but will try to deal with other perennial problems - flood control, traffic congestion, law and order, slums and crime. He will not collect his salary but will put it towards improving life in Bangkok.

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The road to Geneva

Summit success hinges on creation of a climate of confidence

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The time for pre-summit posturing has ended; the time for serious talking has arrived. President Reagan flies to Geneva today to allow himself time to recover from the jet lag of his transatlantic voyage in the serene setting of the lakeside Maison de Saussure before confronting Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, his Soviet counterpart, across the summit table on Tuesday.

Mr Gorbachev is due in Geneva just over 24 hours later.

The distance he has to travel is shorter and, being 20 years Mr Reagan's junior, he needs less time to recover from his journey.

The summit has been projected as a kind of diplomatic trial of strength between the champions of the world's two main ideological camps - a contest in which many people feel the younger, tough, charismatic Russian starts with a clear advantage over his ageing, charming but somewhat

bumbling opponent. It is wrong, however, to regard the summit as a contest to be either won or lost. Rather, it is a meeting between the leaders of the world's two most powerful nations - the first in over six years - to see if they can restore some trust between them and forge fresh ground rules for managing superpower rivalry.

Both sides are approaching the summit with low expectations. The tough statements they have been making during the run-up do not give rise to optimism that any breakthrough can be achieved during the two-day meeting. But, given the frigid relations that have existed between Washington and Moscow for the past six years, it was never realistic to expect the two leaders to reach any significant agreements while in Geneva.

The summit should not be seen as a negotiating session on nuclear weapons. Talks on reducing nuclear arsenals are taking place separately in Geneva between American and Soviet arms negotiators. All Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev will do will be to go over their respective proposals for arms reduction to see if there are ways for their negotiators to narrow the gap between them. It is most unlikely they will get down to the nitty gritty of missile numbers or throw-

weight. Mr Gorbachev will restate his opposition to Mr Reagan's Star Wars space defence programme. Mr Reagan will reiterate his determination to go ahead with research into space defence. He will also talk about human rights abuses in the Soviet Union and Soviet actions in Afghanistan and Africa. Mr Gorbachev will respond by criticising American policy in Nicaragua and South Africa. It is likely to be all very predictable.

If the two leaders simply use their two days of talks to restate known positions and to denounce those of the other side, then the summit will have

WHAT THEY WILL BE TALKING ABOUT IN GENEVA

US PROPOSALS	DEPLOYED STRATEGIC SYSTEMS	SOVIET PROPOSALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space Open to discussion. Strategic weapons Limit of 4,500 warheads on ICBMs and SLBMs. No more than 3,000 of these would be on land-based missiles. Ban on mobile ICBMs. Each side to be permitted 350 long-range bombers. Cruise missiles Limit of 1,500 on air-launched cruise missiles. Payloads 2.8 million kilogram limit on missile payload. INF weapons Medium range missile launchers in Europe to be limited to 140. Number of warheads would vary between 236 and 580 depending on mix of Pershing II and ground launched cruise missiles, which are calculated at four missiles to a launcher. Eventual aim to limit total number of warheads at about 450. Reduction of Soviet SS-20s targeted on Europe to same number, and proportionate reductions in Asia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuclear warheads Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) 2,118 Submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) 5,536 Aircraft weapons (including air-launched cruise missiles and bombs) 2,520 Missile payload 2 million kilograms Ground-launched cruise missiles 128 (est) Pershing II 108 (est) Ship-launched cruise missiles 96 Intermediate range nuclear-capable aircraft 332 European strategic missile systems 192 Britain (Warheads) France 178 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space No 'Star Wars' defence system beyond laboratory research. Strategic weapons Limit of 5,000 nuclear 'charges' Of these not more than 80 per cent to be in any one category (land/sea/air launched missiles) Russia would thus be allowed a maximum of 3,500 ICBM warheads, and the United States 3,000 SLBM warheads. Cruise missiles Freeze on deployment of cruise missiles with a range of more than 600 kilometres. Payloads No limit proposed. INF weapons U.S. would be allowed to keep about 120 cruise missiles in Europe, but no Pershing II. Soviet warheads aimed at Europe would be cut to this number plus a number equivalent to warheads on U.K. and French strategic nuclear forces.

been a failure. However it is hoped that personal chemistry will prevail and that the two men will quickly realize that both of them have a genuine desire to avoid conflict and see the nuclear threat reduced.

If a climate of confidence can be established between them, some of their differences could be resolved and the Geneva arms talks, deadlocked since they began last March, could finally begin to make progress. Although there are deep differences between the two sides' arms reduction offers, there are a number of points of possible convergence.

Both, for instance, have proposed similar limits on strategic nuclear 'charges' - 6,000 in each case. There has also been some narrowing of the gap on intermediate-range nuclear force (INF) weapons.

"If the right atmosphere is created it could be possible for them to work out a framework for future arms talks," one European official said. It is also

possible they will sign a number of bilateral accords which, although minor in themselves, would improve the superpower relationship.

All outcome which leads to a general improvement in the East-West climate would satisfy Washington's Nato partners.

However there is some concern that Mr Reagan's determination to press ahead with Star Wars research could prevent even that modest aim being achieved.

Mr Reagan will brief Nato allies in Brussels on the outcome of the summit on his way back to Washington.

The President goes into his meeting with Mr Gorbachev with the publicly declared support and solidarity of the Nato alliance. However only a month ago the allies were openly expressing their own concern about indecision and division in Washington.

President Reagan initially seemed unable to match the

propaganda skills of Mr Gorbachev, who had captured the imagination of many in the West with his proposal for a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear weapons.

There was dismay when Mr Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, suggested that the US had interpreted the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty to permit testing and development of space weapons. It took skilled diplomacy by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, to reassure them.

Since then President Reagan has come up with a new American arms proposal which also calls for a 50 per cent cut in strategic weapons.

The solid support which Nato has given President Reagan in advance of the summit means that Mr Gorbachev will fail, should he try as he has done in the past, to drive a wedge between the US and its European allies.

400 stage hunger strike in Cape jails

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

As many as 400 detainees being held without trial under emergency regulations or the security laws are reported to be on hunger strike in two Cape Town prisons in what appears to be a new form of mass protest for South Africa.

The Prisons Department confirmed that detainees were on hunger strike in the Victor Verster and Pollsmoor prisons, but refused to give the numbers involved.

Information about the protest comes mainly from relatives of detainees interviewed by the Cape Times.

Two more deaths were reported by the police yesterday in continuing violence which has claimed about 850 lives over the past 14 months.

Two white men received serious burns on Thursday after petrol was thrown into their cars as they drove through a black township near George, on the south Cape coast.

In another development President Botha's offer on Thursday to include blacks on the president's Council, an advisory body at present limited to white, Indian and mixed-race Coloured membership, has been ignored, or dismissed as "far too late" by the opposition.

It is not seen as addressing the real issue - a place for blacks in the central legislative structure.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that the four-month suspension of repayment of South Africa's short-term debts, due to end on December 31, will continue into next year.

Top Nazi fugitive seized in Argentina

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentine police have arrested one of the highest-ranking Nazis accused of war crimes still at large. He is a former SS Lieutenant, Herr Walter Kutschmann, who has been living under a false identity in a wealthy suburb.

Acting on an extradition request from West Germany, police arrested Herr Kutschmann on Thursday morning as he was on his way to do his shopping.

Herr Kutschmann, who has lived in Argentina for nearly 40 years under the name of Señor Pedro Olmos, had been in hiding since 1975 when the Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal identified him as a former SS commander allegedly responsible for the deaths of 2,000 Jews in Poland during the Second World War.

Señor Pedro Aybar, the Interpol representative in Argentina, said Herr Kutschmann was kept under surveillance for two days before police arrested him near his home in the suburb of Vicente Lopez.

Foreign Ministry sources said an Argentine judge must now rule on the West German extradition request, which accuses him of being responsible for the death of 1,500 people during the war.

By all accounts, Herr Kutschmann lived a tranquil life for nearly 30 years after he fled to Argentina and assumed the identity of Señor Olmos working as a purchasing agent for a German-Argentine electrical firm.

Syrian hostage initiative

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, continues his efforts to secure the release of four American hostages in Lebanon, the Syrians have made their own initiative to free West-erners kidnapped in the country by sending the head of Syrian military intelligence to talk to Shia Muslim leaders in west Beirut.

Mr Waite was yesterday still waiting for the Islamic Jihad captors of the four Americans to

answer what he called "certain questions" which would establish the identity of the kidnappers.

Brigadier-General Ghaz Kenan has, however, made no secret of his own dealings here. He has met Sheikh Mohamed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Hezbollah "Part o God" at his office in the Bi Abed suburb of Beirut, and has also held talks with Mr Nabi Berri, leader of the Shia Am militia.

Frost and thaw in East-West links

By Nicholas Ashford

East-West détente began to turn sour in the late 1970s. The US blamed a Soviet crackdown on dissent, Soviet policy in Africa and the deployment of SS-20 missiles targeted against Western Europe, followed by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979.

That was the year of the last summit, between President Carter and President Brezhnev. Soviet actions in Afghanistan were responsible for the US refusal to ratify the Salt II treaty. Relations grew even frostier after President Reagan took office. President Reagan was outspokenly critical of the Soviet Union, which in one speech he described as an "evil empire". He embarked on a massive arms build-up to counter strategic advances made by the Soviet Union during the 1970s.

Although sceptical about the concept of arms control, Mr Reagan did nevertheless initiate two new rounds of arms talks. In November 1981 he put forward his "zero-zero option" aimed at eliminating all long-range intermediate nuclear force (INF) weapons in Europe. Seven months later he put forward proposals for reducing the two super-powers' strategic arsenals. These were known as the Start talks.

In March 1983 the President unveiled his proposal for a Star Wars space defence system which was intended to lead to the total eradication of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union rejected it as a move by the US to gain nuclear superiority.

Both Start and INF talks came to an abrupt halt at the end of 1983 after the Soviet Union walked out of the INF talks following the first deployment of American Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe. US-Soviet relations were now at their lowest point since the Cuban missile crisis.

Cautious Reagan takes the cultural line

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

President Reagan's proposal for "the broadest people-to-people exchange in the history of American-Soviet relations" was seen here yesterday as implicit acknowledgement that he is expecting little else of substance from next week's summit.

In a television address outlining his "mission for peace", Mr Reagan concentrated on new cultural exchanges. He said little about arms control and admitted that even after mapping out with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev "a basis for peaceful discourse", disagreements on fundamentals would not change.

But the President said the two sides were close to completing a new agreement on cultural and educational exchanges, suspended after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Making much of the political importance of "honest and open communication", Mr Reagan said he hoped US-Soviet distrust and levels of secrecy could be reduced and bold new steps taken to build peace.

These would include the exchange of fraternal, religious and cultural groups and thousands of undergraduates each year, more scholarships, family

exchange programmes for young people, more athletic competition, new joint space ventures and medical co-operation.

Elaborating on this rosy vision, he said: "Imagine if all people in our nation could see the Bolshoi ballet again, while Soviet citizens could see American plays and hear groups like the Beach Boys. And how about Soviet children watching *Sesame Street*?"

Smiling, a note even less likely to appeal to the Kremlin, he said: "If Soviet spokesmen are free to appear on American television, to be published and read in the American press, shouldn't the Soviet people have the same right to see, hear and read what we Americans have to say?"

Mr Reagan, who leaves for Geneva today, said it would be naive to think a single summit could establish a permanent peace. The history of Soviet-American relations did not augur well for euphoria. Eight of his predecessors had sought a more stable and peaceful relationship and none had succeeded fully. But, he said, this summit could begin a dialogue for peace.

"We look to the future with optimism and we go to Geneva with confidence."

UK berated for 'negative response'

By Pat Healy

Mrs Joan Ruddock, who steps down from the chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament today, has criticised Britain for its "extremely negative" response to next week's summit.

It could not be expected to produce much in terms of arms control agreement, she said, but it was a starting point for further talks. Britain could have suggested that its own nuclear weapons be counted in the talks.

She was speaking in Sheffield as nearly 1,600 delegates began arriving for the annual CND conference, which is expected to endorse a message to the summit to be taken to Geneva next week by Mr Bruce Kent, the former general secretary.

The main focus of the conference today will be the election of a new chairperson, the first contest for the post in four years.

The five candidates are: Mr Dan Smith, a former general secretary; Miss Joy Hurcombe, chairwoman of Labour CND; Mr Dan Plesch, Professor of Peace at Leeds University; and Mr Paul Johns, chairman of Christian CND. All are members of CND's national council.

The anti-nuclear organisation's running stalls at the conference this year include the new Freeze Organisation, a non-partisan body launched with support from politicians from all four main political parties this week.

Mrs Meg Beresford, who took over as CND's general secretary in August, yesterday welcomed the new body as "a contribution to arms control".

The conference is expected to endorse plans for two mass demonstrations over the next three months.

Doe's bodyguard kills coup leader

From Richard Everett, Abidjan

The ringleader of Tuesday's attempted Liberian coup has been shot dead by government forces and his body put on display, Liberian radio said yesterday.

The head of state, General Samuel Doe, said that one of his bodyguards, Major Edward Slinger, shot and killed the coup leader, Brigadier-General Thomas Quiwonkpa, on the road from Monrovia to the international airport.

Quiwonkpa, who had been in hiding since the bid to topple the Government failed, was apparently discovered looking for food.

According to a later broadcast on state radio, his body was driven in an Army truck to Monrovia's Barclay Training Centre, the main military barracks, and put on display.

The radio said hundreds of people came to see it. General Doe said he had offered a \$10,000 (£7,000) reward for Quiwonkpa, who seized power with Master Sergeant Doe and other non-commissioned officers in a 1980 coup. Quiwonkpa was made commanding general of the army, but later clashed with General Doe and fled the country in 1983 after being accused of plotting against the regime.

Meanwhile, shops have reopened in Monrovia and business is slowly returning to normal, although soldiers are still conducting heavy searches at checkpoints around the city.

Residents reached by telephone said they saw lorry loads of dead bodies being ferried through the city after three days of fighting, which appeared to end on Thursday.

In his radio broadcast yesterday, General Doe said the armed forces would act to ensure the protection of lives and property, warning people not to break the dusk-to-dawn curfew. He said anyone, including foreign diplomats, caught on the street, "one minute after six o'clock" would be "treated as a rebel" and "executed on the spot".

Many innocent people have been killed and property damaged in the aftermath of the coup attempt, and called on Liberians to co-operate with security forces.

Witnesses said soldiers machine-gunned the party headquarters of the largest opposition party, the Liberian Action Party, and set it ablaze on Wednesday night.

Other reports said that soldiers had been seen looting and the neighbourhood of the ethnic group of Quiwonkpa was said to have been sacked.

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Toronto leadership battle

RC school funding dominates election

From John Best, Ottawa

The controversial and emotional question of public financing for Ontario's Roman Catholic separate schools will be much in prominence when the provincial Conservative Party holds a leadership convention in Toronto today.

The issue has dominated all others in the campaign for the job being vacated by Mr. Frank Miller, the former Premier of Ontario, Canada's most populous and most industrially powerful province.

Mr. Miller decided to step down after the Tories, who had been in power for 42 years, emerged from a provincial general election on May 2 with a bare plurality of Legislature seats.

Defeated on a confidence vote in the Legislature at Toronto, the chastened Tories were replaced by the largest opposition party, the Liberals, who formed a government with the support of the left-wing New Democratic Party.

Three candidates are seeking the party leader's post, and the job of opposition leader which goes with it, in the vote by about 1,700 Tory convention delegates today.

They include two who ran against Mr. Miller at the last leadership convention only 10 months ago: Mr. Larry Grossman, a former provincial Finance Minister, and Mr. Dennis Timbrell, former Minister of Agriculture.

The third candidate, Mr. Alan Pope, also a former cabinet Minister, is generally thought to have little chance of winning.

Mr. Grossman, aged 41, who finished second at the last

convention, has been the front-runner in this campaign from the beginning.

However, Mr. Timbrell, aged 39, has made a race of it and recently was reported, at least by his own campaign organization, to be within about five percentage points of Mr. Grossman for the first ballot.

Few concrete issues have emerged in the campaign, which largely turns on which candidate is best equipped to rebuild the Tories and lead them back to power.

The one consistent issue is that of separate school funding, which also figured prominently in the May election campaign and helped to bring about the Tory defeat.

Mr. Timbrell has raised some pointed questions about a Bill to extend funding to all grades of the Catholic system. He has promised to fight changes in the legislation that would, among other things, protect the jobs of non-Catholic teachers affected by the transfer of thousands of students from public to Catholic schools.

The funding question has convulsed public and separate school boards across Ontario, roughly 40 per cent of whose 9 million inhabitants are Catholic.

Ironically, it was the previous Tory Government which in its last year in office first adopted a policy of full funding. Among those who took issue with it was the Anglican Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Rev. Lewis Gansworthy, who accused the Tories of using Hitler-like tactics in trying to push the programme through.

Victory for the press

San José, Costa Rica (AP) — The Inter-American Human Rights Court has condemned the practice of licensing journalists in what newspaper publishers called a landmark victory for press freedom.

The court said on Thursday

that licensing laws, like those passed in recent years in Costa Rica and other Latin American countries, imperilled the right to freedom of expression.

The laws require reporters to be licensed by government or quasi-government agencies



Contrasting faces of Israel: the bustle of a Jerusalem bus station, and the desolation of poverty-stricken Bedouin at a market at Beersheba in the Negev desert. Photographs: Warren Harrison.

Safari camp operator shields tourists from rapist guerrillas

From Jan Raath, Harare

A safari operator at a luxury camp in north-west Matabeleland shielded 26 German tourists from two armed guerrillas for two hours and spiked the rebels' brandy with sleeping pills before they left.

Mr. Alan Elliott's action last week averted what may have become a particularly ugly incident. For his pains, he has been in detention for more than a week and his whereabouts are unknown.

His partner, Mr. Ian McDonald, was also arrested and assaulted, but released with a warning that if he reported his beating, he would be rearrested.

Ten camp employees, including two women who were raped by the guerrillas and another who was in Harare at the time of the incident, were also detained in Bulawayo's Sticks police camp. Lawyers said

there was evidence of them being "severely" ill-treated. The arrests were carried out by the notorious Police Internal Security branch, an undercover branch of the police which appears to operate with little accountability.

Mr. Nigel Butler, a co-director of Touch the Wild Safaris with the two arrested whites, said Mr. Elliott, who is in his late forties, was alerted in the early morning to the presence of two armed guerrillas in the kitchen of Makalolo Safari camp in Tsholotsho Communal land just south of the Hwange National park.

The guerrillas had raped two women kitchen workers. Mr. Elliott left his party of German tourists to speak to the guerrillas, who told him there were another 16 in the bush near by. He piled the rebels

with glasses of brandy, into which he had slipped sleeping tablets.

The guerrillas left, and soon after he took his party — who were unaware of the incident to the National Parks Department headquarters in Hwange.

A patrol pursued the guerrillas and shot one of them dead. Mr. Butler said that Mr. Elliott should be given a medal. On Friday last week, Mr. Elliott was in Dete near Hwange when heavily armed officers in plain clothes arrived searched the rooms of the house in which he was staying and "harassed" three tourists with him. Mr. Elliott was arrested, followed by Mr. McDonald on Sunday.

Mr. McDonald, who was released on Wednesday this week, was said to be terrified that he would be picked up again.

Top leaders toast King Husain

World leaders have rallied round King Husain of Jordan to wish him a happy 50th birthday. Between them they took part in an hour-long televised star statesman's programme broadcast by Jordanian television (Jan Murray writes).

Mrs. Thatcher was seen curtsying to him as she ushered him into Downing Street and President Reagan was seen giving him the warmest of White House handshakes. President Mitterrand's praise was colourful and warm.

Mr. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, called in his designated successor, Yitzhak Shamir, yesterday in an unsuccessful attempt to agree on a formula which would prevent another crisis that could threaten the coalition government.

There have been at least nine big recorded crises in the 14 months since Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir agreed to form a government of national unity from members of their rival Labour and Likud groups.

The latest crisis, caused by attacks on Mr. Peres's Middle East policy by the Likud Trade and Industry Minister, Mr. Ariel Sharon, came within a whisker of bringing down the coalition. Only a grudging, half-hearted "but detailed" clarification from Mr. Sharon late on Thursday stopped Mr. Peres from dismissing him and so forcing Mr. Shamir to leave the Government.

Yesterday's meeting was called because Mr. Peres wanted Mr. Shamir to agree that in future the Prime Minister could dismiss any Cabinet member who was disloyal, without consulting the other coalition leaders.

But Mr. Shamir, who politically has lost most in the crisis, would not give way. He argued that it was only the fact that consultation was necessary which had stopped Mr. Peres from carrying out his dismissal threat and destroying the Government, which both men really wanted to save.

Mr. Shamir is even claiming that there was a plot inside the Prime Minister's office to leak documents to Mr. Sharon, knowing this would have forced Likud out of government.

The national need for the Government to survive was emphasized yesterday by publication of last month's cost-of-living index, which showed prices had gone up by 4.7 per cent, triggering a pay rise.

Israel's economic planners are not dismayed by this, for they believe the worst is over, provided the Government keeps on course.

Salaries have declined in real terms by 13 per cent since a wage freeze was imposed in July, but it is hoped that the price stability achieved over the same period will mean that next month's rise will be 2 per cent, with the annual inflation rate now 180 per cent, coming down to double figures in the Spring.

There is little doubt that the turn-around would be impossible to sustain if the coalition fell apart.

The crises has nevertheless left Mr. Peres very much in the driving seat, and this is likely to give him confidence in the secret peace talks, which, he admitted on Thursday, were going on with Jordan.

This is where he could again clash with Mr. Shamir, who left for a three-week lecture tour in North and South America yesterday after his "clarifications".

In only one instance did Mr. Shamir admit he had wrongly attacked the Prime Minister. While he said he would accept the cabinet position, he promised to work to change members' minds.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Sharon is prepared to risk another dismissal threat if he believes Mr. Peres is going too far towards making territorial concessions to obtain peace.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yitzhak Peretz, the Interior Minister, who was the chief go-between trying to bring Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir together, has said he will lead his four Shas religious party members out of the coalition if the Prime Minister does not ban a football match due to be played on the Sabbath at the national stadium.

This would not put the government at risk, but it is a warning from Mr. Peretz to both main party leaders that his price for serving in any future narrow coalition with either will be legislation to protect the Jewish way of life.

Shamir rejects Peres deal to avert new crisis

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

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Prize for Briton

Tokyo (AP) — The first 10-million-yen (£33,000) International Prize for Biology was awarded to Mr. Edred John Corner, a professor emeritus at Cambridge, it was announced here. Mr. Corner, aged 79, is a botanist and expert in tropical plants of the Amazon and South-East Asia.

Up the creek

Tulsa, Oklahoma (AP) — A 10-year-old boy, Michael Sweetman who fell into a creek while trying to recover a page of homework was swept two and a half miles by the stream before passersby pulled him to safety. He managed to hang on to his homework, but it eventually dissolved in the water.

Casualties drop

San Salvador (AP) — The number of civilians killed this year in El Salvador's six-year civil war is the lowest since the conflict began, according to the Human Rights Commission. It said 1,140 civilians were killed up to the end of October, while in the same period last year 2,838 died.

Rail sabotage

Berlin (Reuters) — A Moscow-Paris express train was delayed for four hours in West Berlin yesterday after being damaged in a sabotage attack, a city Senate spokesman said. The train hit an iron obstruction shaped like a tank-trap. Political leaflets had been found nearby.

A one-man show should be spectacle solo, a Walkman is an add-on, a disc-jockey is an animator and hit-parade is palmarès.

The state has always had the interest of the French language at heart, since the Académie française was founded in 1635.

Just the mot antidote to Franglais

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The French are fighting a sustained but losing battle to stop the incursions of English words into their language by English words. It may be chic to insert French words into English speech, but the Académie française and the Ministry of Communications are not amused by le look trop English that French is beginning to assume.

The media and pop music are two of the worst offenders, with such words as news-deck, reporter, features, scoop, disc-jockey, hit-parade and Walkman in everyday use.

This week the Ministry of Communications issued another of its lists of words in common use which are helping to turn Franglais into Franglais.

The news-deck should be la redaction sélective, which gives the impression of people sitting around doing nothing. Features are varié and you are either a reporter or a reporter.

A one-man show should be spectacle solo, a Walkman is an add-on, a disc-jockey is an animator and hit-parade is palmarès.

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Guru leaves US after guilty plea

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Indian guru, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, left the United States on a chartered aircraft yesterday after pleading guilty to charges of violating immigration laws.

His aircraft was flying to the Irish Republic. Sources said his final destination would be India.

The guru, aged 53, who claims 500,000 followers around the world, had pleaded innocent last week and was awaiting trial in February. But he made a surprise appearance in court in Portland, Oregon, on Thursday afternoon to change his plea. "I never want to return again," he told Judge Edward Leavy.

He admitted conspiracy to arrange sham marriages between American citizens and some of his foreign followers so that they could live in this country.

He also pleaded guilty to a second charge of lying about his own intentions with regard to living in the US. In exchange, the prosecutors agreed to drop 33 similar counts. The guru agreed to drop suits he had filed against the Government.

The judge ordered the Bhagwan, who owns more than 90 Rolls-Royces, to pay \$400,000 (£280,000) and court costs and leave the US within five days.

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835 days at the helm

Craxi breaks an Italian record

From Peter Nichols, Rome

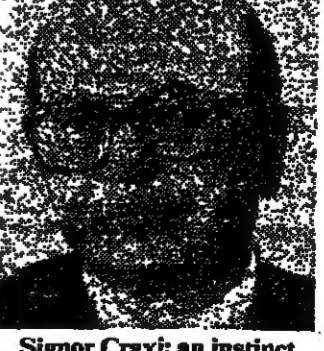
Signor Bettino Craxi yesterday completed 835 consecutive days as Prime Minister, and so became the leader of the longest-lived government in Italy's postwar history.

His administration is now a day ahead of the previous champion in terms of endurance, the third government led from February 1966 to June 1968 by Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in 1978.

He arrived at the prime ministership all those hundred days ago with no ministerial experience of any kind. He was secretary of the Socialist Party but he had not been so much as a junior minister. He was not a Christian Democrat. His reputation was for strong, personal tactics within his own party and little or no interest in being loved by the country at large.

This was not the best preparation for leading highly susceptible coalitions and Signor Craxi has survived some unusually sharp brushes with some of his colleagues.

Ironically terrorism which destroyed his rival in government longevity lately helped to give Signor Craxi a touch of popularity though it was not the domestic terrorists this time but the Palestinians who hijacked the Italian cruise ship, Achille Lauro. Signor Craxi stood up to



Signor Craxi: an instinct for survival.

the Americans on the issue but was forced by internal divisions within the coalition to offer his resignation. President Cossiga refused to accept it and the Prime Minister went back to Parliament for a vote of confidence and gained it. His feat in avoiding what looked like inevitable departure was symbolic of two new factors in Italian affairs, one of which is personal and the other only indirectly connected with Signor Craxi's own performance.

The first is that the country is now with some astonishment looking on itself as an unusually stable element on the European scene with a future painted in much brighter colours than Italians are used to seeing. A fresh look at agriculture and a concentration on high technology are seen to offer

reasonable economic prospects while a sense of governmental stability is no longer a hopeless dream but a reasonable desire — apart from being essential for tapping the country's economic potential. There is now public impatience with the idea that governments need only last 10 or 11 months, the average so far.

Bettino Craxi sensed this feeling which accorded with his own somewhat authoritarian temperament and made him insist, in a way that no other governmental figure has, on the importance of the office of Prime Minister. His ability to demonstrate that a government not only fell with less ease but, if it showed signs of going, was promptly reinstated, brought him immediately into conflict with the Christian Democrats on the crucial question of his own continued presence as Prime Minister.

His leading allies told him clearly that, for them at the moment, the five-party coalition with the Communists in opposition was the right formula, but the Prime Minister could change.

Signor Craxi's view is that a prime minister should be left to get on with the job of governing; in particular, when he himself is at the helm. Whether an attempt should now be made to remove him will be one of the first questions he will be facing as he chalks up his record.

Radio
Archive
material

If the tradition of the radio feature is alive and well anywhere at the moment it is in BBC Manchester. Currently of a Saturday evening you can hear repeats of their superlative series, *Actuality* (Radio 4). This, as the title suggests, employs on the spot recording to provide material which is then expertly selected and stitched together to build up some exceptionally clear-cut and vivid pictures of whatever may be - life on the New York subway, or what it is like to get and keep a job in a summer holiday camp.

Several producers have contributed to the series; prominent among them is Peter Everett who is plainly in the process of launching another winner in the same style. You'll Never Be 16 Again (Radio 4, Wednesdays, repeating Thursdays) is to be a seven-part history of the British teenage scene, and the first programme took us back to the early Fifties, which now seem almost as remote as the days of good King Edward with their long simple skirts for the ladies, their close-fitting coats and trousers for the men.

Perhaps it was the resemblance to such ancient days that gave this evocation its peculiarly antique atmosphere, for this was the time of the New Look (long simple skirts) and of the male neo-Edwardian style with its garish parody among those other Edward-emulators, the Teds. One of them remembered paying £25 for his knee-length drape jacket and stove-pipe trousers, and that was heavy money in those days - a good four weeks' wages. And it was a job to get the agonizing day-glow socks that used to be worn above the knees, the clumping brogue shoes, the only source of supply was a shop in Exeter.

How nervously we used to look down our noses at those uniformed, non-conformists, and how wild-mannered they seem now. Indeed as the programme drew to a close a new more troubling spirit was heard to rise out of the open bottle in the strident, pulsing, sex-laden sounds of Elvis and Little Richard. "How is this not illegal?", one lad wondered, hearing them for the first time, foreseeing perhaps what we with hindsight have, with difficulty recognizing, that the soft and relatively inoffensive, brother-creeper lies in the direct line of descent that ends in the steel-capped boomer-boots.

One well-established contributor to Manchester's progress is Phil Smith whose work is closer to the documentary than the feature - clips from interviews linked with minimal narration. He has sketched some memorable scenes from Northern life, but Solomon Grundy (Radio 4, Tuesdays; producer Gillian Hush) is on a larger scale.

Drawing his speakers from the mill towns of North-East Lancashire, Mr Smith assembles comment in each of six programmes on a different "age of man": birth the first week, childhood last Tuesday, and so on. He is one of the most gifted interviewers working in radio today not because you hear him - his questions are edited out - but because of the extraordinary naturalness and unfettered candour of what people say to him.

His first programme closed at the bedside of a woman who after years of miscarrying had at last delivered a fine child. There were tears in her voice and a large lump in the listener's throat.

In a rich week London has not let Manchester have everything its own way. Following *Echoes of the Great War* (August 1984), James Munson's quiet but immensely communicative selection from the vast diary of Andrew Clark, Rector of Great Leighs, Essex, came *The Silence Following* (Radio 4, Sunday, repeated Friday; producer Alan Haydock). This covered the year from the Armistice until Christmas 1919, when men were returning from the battlefields or from POW camps. There were, noted Clark in his economical way, "no many left to come home", and those who came were not infrequently ghosts of their former selves, minds shattered by the stress of war, bodies emaciated from imprisonment. But more than that had changed: in this once remote East Anglian village - a main road skirts it now - it was plain within the year that an old order had also received its death blow. Again in the part of Clark, Leonard Maguire continued a solid, touching performance.

In case riches should seem to be the norm, let me just say that the week has also had its spots of poverty. I suppose it is to be expected of a programme about the wonders and pains of the human foot that it should be flat, but surely not arch as well? Gillian Lynne's Feet First (Radio 4, Tuesday; producer Marjorie Lofthouse) managed both.

David Wade

Television

Between Dr Kildare and Sir Lancelot Spratt, and a patient known only as "the systolic murmur in bed 24", lies a gulf of impossible expectation. Will Being (Channel 4) is a series about health matters which last night turned its attention to the relationship between patient and doctor, and what can be done to improve it.

Dr Anthony Clare, professor of psychological medicine and an experienced media communicator, explained how medical students entering the profession with humanitarian, altruistic motives would become "soggy with the basic science facts" by the end of their first two years of pre-clinical work, and disillusioned by the discovery that their profession was not "patient-centred" by the time they completed their training.

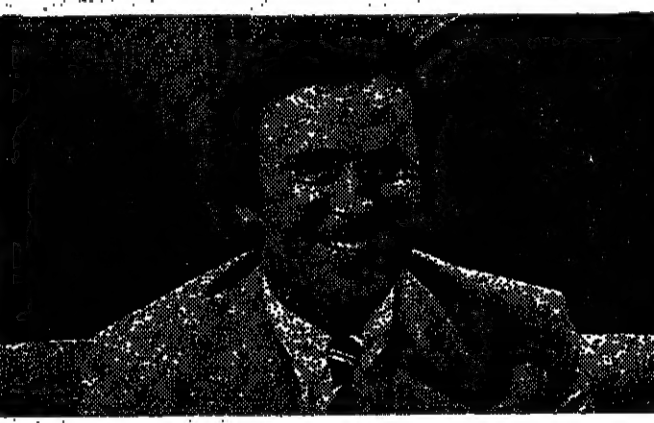
Consultants, and the apprenticeship system in which they train students, were called to account for doctors' tendency to objectify patients, thereby intimidating and distressing them. The problem was evidently worse than many of the programme's interviewees realised, since an enlightened consultant called to speak on the side of the angels, still talked of his patients as "very complex creatures", instead of some species of person.

This was a thoroughly researched and soundly constructed programme which did its subject justice. With interviews with doctors and medical students at teaching hospitals and vox pops from patients interviewed on the street, the main strains of dissatisfaction were explored.

Towards the end of the programme, a way to improve doctors' communication skills was shown - videotaped role-plays in which actors took the part of patients while medical students stumbled through different approaches towards them. There can be no easy way to tell someone that they have an incurable, debilitating condition, but practice was undoubtedly useful.

The only dimension that the programme did not explore was that of the patients' needs. One man complained that all his doctor had on his mind was what was wrong, what prescription to write and how to get the patient out of the surgery fast. Discontent as this preoccupation might seem, it covers the leading function of a doctor - so what other service do we need from some of the few people in society who take their professional status as a title?

Celia Brayfield

Long distance form:
Mark Lawson looks at Wogan

What the chat show lacks above all else is danger, quizzers and quizzes, conducted with the edgy correctness of people who know the telephone is tapped. But, at about 7.20pm last Monday night, Terry Wogan, approaching the 120th edition of the chat show which bears his surname, asked the most dangerous question of his career.

Talking to the Australian author, Colleen McCullough, he said: "In your new book, there's a reference to chat shows? Yes, he said, her central character appeared on such a show and was given the pre-appearance advice: "Be bright and cheerful and make Bob look good". Bob was a mythical host but the name seemed interchangeable with real ones and it was tempting to think that the Wogan show had accidentally let drop its motto: be bright and cheerful and make Terry look good.

Nine months into a remarkably demanding routine (from which he has taken only one week's break), Terry looks very good indeed. Wogan himself looks slightly better than many expected, averaging between eight and nine million viewers. As a general rule, when the guests are seen as the second-best element, the chat show founders. Some would call this Parkinson's Law but the development of Wogan increasingly suggests that history has been unkind to Michael Parkinson, his major English ancestor in this genre.

Wogan is the centre of everything that happens. Entering to tumult, he attempts to stem the audience applause with the half-heartedness of a Canute who desires to be drowned. He gently reflects the questions on to himself. The guest mentions a weight problem. "I could do with losing a few pounds myself", says Terry, winning back the camera from his brief flirtation with another face.

Increasingly, though, Terry has an image problem. His public persona, honed in radio, is that of the little man on the side of the angels and the average. Wogan stretched self-deprecation to the point where it became a device for self-ad-

Opera: Paul Griffiths hails Simon Rattle on his debut with the ENO
Resounding
successKatya Kabanova
Coliseum

Now just put down the paper and ring the London Coliseum to book seats for *Katya Kabanova*. And I don't mind if you do live in Liverpool. Prepare to be knocked flat. *Katya* has always seemed the most normal of Janáček's operas: the most lyrical, the nearest to conventional ideas of how a tragedy of love ought to sound. But it is also restless and tough in a very 20th-century way, and the astounding success of this English National Opera production, both in the staging and in the musical performance, is to project the flood of romanticism with full force through the iron clasp of construction and against the drift of hesitancy.

The imagery that has been borrowed for the set and Munch is apt, for Janáček too works with starkly opposed planes of colour and with incessant strokes of repetition, ripples around the instant of extreme emotion that is at the core of each act of his opera: the humiliation in the first, the kiss in the second, the suicide in the third.

The thrilling achievement of these moments musically is due to the conducting of Simon Rattle, for they are all essentially orchestral events (indeed, part of the individuality and fascination of Janáček's operas is in the way people can behave relatively normally on stage, as David Pountney here well understands, while the orchestra is blazing their emotions). Mr Rattle is making his house debut, and was welcomed with thoroughly deserved enthusiasm after the second interval. He simply makes the whole score sound so beautiful.

At the start there is the satisfactory otherworldliness of the opening of *Pelkas et Melisande*, but with so much poise and understanding in each phrase that one fears it cannot go on so perfectly. Yet it does. Heaven knows how Mr Rattle has been able to communicate his intentions for every bar throughout the orchestra, but the result is a performance which conveys each act as a whole, building towards overwhelming climaxes, and then somehow going on to overwhelm some more.



The kiss: John Treleaven as Boris and Eilene Hannan as Katya

There is not a slack moment, not even when, at the start of the second act, Janáček creates practically all of his music out of two small phrases.

Mr Pountney, who restages a 1974 production by John Blatchley, is equally a master at making Janáček work. There are occasions where his mimes to the music are too obvious, notably in the first scene (though the kiss too is in some danger: it needs to be made quite clear that the music erupts in response to the event, not that the lovers are puppets of the score). But his use of long orchestral passages - for instance to develop the relation-

ship between Kabanicha and Dikoy - is entirely convincing, and it is a highly productive coup to make the final Katya-Boris duet seem possibly a fantasy of hers. Here he is startlingly helped by Nick Chelton's lighting.

The cast, too, is outstanding. One might have guessed that Eilene Hannan would be a preternaturally skilled yet febrile Katya, but perhaps not that her voice would be so right for this music, whether curving it into flying phrases or, more often and no less eloquently, expressing the heroine's isolation in the cold isolation of her notes from each other.

Ann Howard skilfully manages to put across powerfully a wholly unforthcoming, stiff, smug Kabanicha: Cynthia Buchanan as Varvara is exactly her opposite, bubbling with movement and expressive volubility in her voice. John Treleaven as Boris and Kenneth Woolam as Tichon offer alternative faces of male weakness, the weakness coming in each case from a firm grasp on the musical idiom. Donald Adams catches Dikoy excellently with his spluttering *Sprechgesang*, and Patrick Power makes a striking, vocally very likeable and confident company debut as Vanya.

Theatre
Landscape of hatredThe Garden of
England
Cottesloe

An early speaker in Peter Cox's documentary collage on the miners' strike claims that when pre-war miners arrived in Kent the lodging houses greeted them with signs saying, "No miners need apply".

Another speaker recalls that her father cycled down from the Lancashire coalfields only to die of pneumonia from working up to his waist in water in a Kentish pit. After that, she had no intention of getting on her bike.

This story also cropped up on Mr Cox's 7.84 piece on the strike, which appeared at the Shaw Theatre last year. It had the same title: emphasizing the gentle landscape of orchards.

The 7.84 production was an agit-prop show, ending with a strike-fund collection, the present sequel is a retrospective assembly of evidence, edited from interviews with striking miners and their families.

As the final event in the studio's Cottesloe season, it is hardly a theatrical occasion at all, but all the theatre can appropriately do with material as raw and urgent as this is to offer a sounding board.

John Burgess and Peter Gill's production contains only one dramatized scene, when the company briefly form up into an enraged, taunting picket line. Otherwise, the evening consists of mass exchanges of dislocated statements, or seated discussion passages on prison sentences, sackings, and their abiding hatred of those who went back to work.

The form echoes the shared sense of confusion. "We get so worked up inside, we can't say what we mean", one woman says. It seems that the community still do not know what has hit them; and that they cannot connect their previous



Patricia Franklin

lives with the bloodshed, arson, reprisals, and vendettas of the past two years.

A lot of what they say is extremely positive. Speaker after speaker remembers the strike as a marvellous time: meaning that women broke out of domesticity and found a public voice; that the prospect of destitution released a flood of generous help from outside; and that all kinds of new bonds sprang up in adversity.

At the same time, their memories are choked with frustration and rage.

The sense of a trap is intensified by the fact they are fighting for their rights to jobs that no civilized penal institution would ever inflict. This bitter evidence on the divisions of England is presented with dignity and passion by a company among whom I must mention Roger Lloyd Pack, Patricia Franklin and June Watson. Irving Wardle

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SHIP OF HOPE

On board are the British government, the Irish government, the SDLP representing non-violent Irish nationalism in Ulster, and the opposition parties at Westminster. Waving dollar bills from the quay are the occupants of the White House, and members of the US Congress. Half overboard is Mr Haughey, who is more than likely to be prime minister of Ireland in two years' time. Not on board are Provisional IRA/Sinn Féin, today's vehicle for the tradition of Irish insurrectionary violence, and the Ulster unionist parties, which have over half of the active voters in the province - two groups that between them do most to make the political condition of Ulster what it is. Will she sail or sink?

The accord signed yesterday has been made possible because the FitzGerald Irish know that unification of Ireland is not on unless Ulster Protestants become reconciled to the thing, and that the only (far distant or illusory) hope of that is via reconciliation between unionist and nationalist within Northern Ireland. Meanwhile they want to improve the position of the Catholic community in the North, not least in order to save non-violent nationalism from being eaten away by Sinn Féin; and they are alarmed at what North-generated violence is doing to society south of the border.

And the accord has been made possible because the British believe that the Provisional movement subsists in the disaffection of a significant part of the nationalist community in Northern Ireland. It is argued that it cannot be seen off, under constraints imposed by liberal democracy, without redressing the civil balance in favour of the Catholic minority, and without proper backing from that community for the agencies of law enforcement, which it is hoped these arrangements will help to secure.

The novel element in the agreement is the recruitment, or admission, of Dublin as a second guarantor, and the formal endorsement by both governments of the validity and right to recognition of the two competing traditions in Ulster, unionist and nationalist. Never since partition in 1922 has Dublin's interest in the condition of Northern Ireland been so explicitly provided for, and never since that time has an Irish government placed, by such close implication, its seal of authenticity on the province of Northern Ireland as now constituted.

Risks abound. On Dr FitzGerald's side is his exposure to Mr Haughey's taunts that he is betraying the "national aspiration" by underwriting partition; and the longer-term risk that the Irish government will be found to have put itself in a position of responsibility without power vis-à-vis the minority in the North, with disenchantment all round.

The risk Mrs Thatcher is taking is of Ulster Protestants being stirred to one of their grand refusals, as in 1913 with the Ulster Volunteers and in 1974 with the strike against the Sunningdale agreement. That would bring in a longish period of political turbulence in the province, intensified paramilitary activity, and likely recrimination between London and

Dublin. These are politicians' risks. At higher hazard are the lives and fortunes of the Ulster people.

The two prime ministers addressed their audiences, which need different kinds of reassurance, through a joint press conference yesterday. They held together well - better than last year when they performed separately. But will it last when the pressures mount and the other's eye is not upon them? What will become of the "determined efforts to resolve differences" clause, which governs proceedings of the joint ministerial meetings? It suits the Irish maximalist position, but modifies - in a way to make a unionist jump - the line hitherto taken in Whitehall that the thing is merely consultative. And have we reached a new position, or are we beginning a process, as Mr John Hume will insist? The agreement engenders contrary fears and hopes, a cause of fragility.

Why court these risks? Ulster jogs along, just, under a dispensation that suits most parties second best. Political crime is held down to an almost tolerable level. The economy is stirring. Social life is nearer to normal now especially where, as in central Belfast, it was farthest from it. Time may achieve an equilibrium. Why turn up the temperature?

Neither government sees a policy of leave-well-alone as serving for long. The new framework has been designed to cope with a society divided 60:40 at the deepest of all political levels, at the roots of loyalty and allegiance. Left to their own devices societies in that predicament resort to the arbitrament of civil war followed sometimes by secession. Ulster is restrained from that by superior British force and British statecraft, fully justified in respect of casualties, expense and weariness by the horrors of the alternative.

The exercise of that responsibility calls for policies to contain and exhaust hostility generated by contradictory loyalties. That is what this agreement seeks to do. It deserves to be supported, even though its benefits will be slow to appear, and even though it carries no guarantee of success. One defect of the agreement is the secrecy with which it has been negotiated, necessary to its conclusion no doubt but ruinous of unionist confidence.

Another defect is that articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution remain in place. They lay jurisdictional claim to the territory of Northern Ireland, which the Provo's cite in justification of their atrocities and which colour with suspicion the unionist view of all the Republic's acts of state. It has to be accepted that Dr FitzGerald cannot be reasonably sure of carrying the appropriate constitutional amendment by referendum, not with Fianna Fail 19 per cent ahead of his coalition in the opinion polls. That is a flaw in the Republic's sense of political reality which has communicated itself to this agreement.

The most serious defect is the absence of reference to provincial self-government. Not only would that give Ulster politicians something constructive to do, now lacking. It would

compensate unionists a bit, the evident losers in status from the new arrangements. Mrs Thatcher placed emphasis yesterday on the provision that as and when responsibilities are devolved on a provincial administration they will be withdrawn from the purview of the joint ministerial conference.

She held that out as an incentive to unionists to agree a scheme of devolved government. By the same token it looks like a disincentive to the nationalists, who may not want to see the scope of the conference reduced. In exchange for the visible Dublin role that the SDLP was looking for and is given, the price should have been exacted from them of participation in provincial government on terms short of executive power sharing which is quite unrealistic. The agreement is unbalanced to the disfavour of unionists.

It was evidently difficult to shape the details of the agreement. It will be even more difficult to make it stick. Firmness and patience will be required of both governments, also tact - a quality not conspicuous in the choice of Hillsborough, seat of the governors of Northern Ireland before the office was abolished to the dismay of unionists, now made the place for signature of the instrument of creeping betrayal, as Mr Paisley would put it.

Creeping betrayal it is not. If clarity of political vision were higher among the many public virtues of Ulstermen, unionists would see that whereas their former paramountcy is not to be available again, their liberties, the practice of their religion, their culture and their place as full citizens of the United Kingdom are made secure on the terms of self-determination. They would notice that security is first business for the new machinery and that yesterday the Irish government announced its intention to ratify the European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, which blocks the "political" bolt-hole in extradition proceedings. That is an earnest of the benefits to security to be had from a more co-operative attitude on the part of Dublin, and - a condition essential to the survival of the agreement - on the part of Northern nationalists too. Unionists would also be aware of the unwisdom of their setting out, as a small, loyal part of the body politic of the kingdom, to wreck an agreement that will be endorsed by the parliament at Westminster.

A matching clarity of political vision on the part of nationalists would bring the SDLP to the view that their interest lies in working to the agreement in a spirit of co-operation and compromise, not in using it as a racket to win one concession after another. It would also cause republicans to see, some even in the Ballymurphy and Creggan estates, that a British province, concerning the affairs of which Irish ministers are afforded a regular opportunity to put forward their views and warn, is a better place to belong to, and take some responsibility for, than a battlefield dedicated to the impossibility of beating Protestant Ulster into submission by the bullet and the bomb.

other level of the sport will be weak. Standards will decline. The pool from which senior and potential international players are picked will be diminished, and the sport will soon descend to the second-rate.

It is nevertheless unrealistic to believe that we can return to the days when schoolboys desired nothing more than to represent their school at sport, and were willing to sacrifice all to achieve that aim. All is not lost. If many schools are now lukewarm in their approach to rugby, many of the rugby clubs have taken up the slack.

It is not the same as the rugby tuition the schoolboy used to have at school but it could be good enough if more clubs chose to make it so. Too many of them are happy to select only the very best young players and ignore the rest. Even those that have a commitment to good rugby tuition do not always take the trouble to acquire the right expertise.

The rugby clubs, like everyone else, are not as rich as they would like to be. But the tuition of coaches to improve the stock of British rugby players for the next decade deserves greater priority over clubhouse improvements to make the members more comfortable next season.

Boxing the compass over Okehampton

From the Minister of State for Transport

Sir, I was pleased to see Alan Franks's article (November 13) about the Okehampton by-pass which puts many of the arguments of the protagonists fairly, although I would quarrel with the description of our proposal as a "moorland" route since it does not go up on to the moor, but along the lower slope of the northern boundary of the national park.

I must, however, take issue with the misleading elements of Miss Ashbrook's letter (November 12). It is true that some preliminary work has been done on northern routes. That is why we could possibly reduce the average 13 years taken to plan and build a northern route to nine. That is a significant saving, but it would still mean at least a six-year delay for the people of Okehampton, compared to the time-scale for constructing the southern by-pass.

The consultants quoted by Miss Ashbrook are quite wrong to suggest that the delay could be as little as two years. They assumed, as does Miss Ashbrook, that there is only one serious northern route. Others will differ. Thirteen variants were discussed at the public inquiry. We would have to look properly at all the options.

Her favoured route was not specifically discussed at the public inquiry, and is not designed to anything like the extent necessary to publish the statutory orders which are a prelude to a public inquiry.

She also seems to think, as do the consultants upon whose advice she relies, that there would be no need to consult the public; that a public inquiry would be uncontentious; and could be restricted to a discussion on a single route. That is undemocratic as well as wishful thinking.

In any case it would, in our view, be an environmental mistake to go to the north of the town. Many people do not realise that the landscape can absorb and hide a road to the south of the town. This cannot be done to the north, where the landscape is more open and rolling.

The Independent Landscape Advisory Committee said that the southern route was best for environmental quality. They said so on six occasions. We also know that an independent inspector recom-

mended the southern route. He said that the price to be paid for avoiding the national park was too high.

The time has come to end the misery suffered by the people of Okehampton and the damage to the West Country's economy and that is why we are asking Parliament to confirm the southern route.

Yours faithfully,
LYNDA CHALKER,
Department of Transport,
2 Marsham Street, SW1,
November 14.

From Mr Mark A. Sullivan
Sir, The joint parliamentary committee heard evidence in detail on the Okehampton by-pass in March this year in the Houses of Parliament. I was one of the very few listeners to the proceedings on the two critical days, March 13 and 19, when the Department of Transport's regional director, and then its project engineer, were witnesses before the committee in defence of the route through Dartmoor National Park.

They proved quite unable to explain why and how their department had justified the setting aside of circular 4/76 that "no new route for long-distance traffic should be constructed through a national park unless it has been demonstrated that there is a compelling need which would not be met by any reasonable alternative means".

To those present, these official witnesses were discredited by cross-examination before the committee and this must have greatly influenced the decision. Yet no transport minister heard this, nor did other MPs who may now vote to overturn the special report of the joint committee.

Had Nicholas Ridley or Mrs Lynda Chalker been present and seen their officials' performance I suggest they would not now be seeking a route through the national park. They now do seek this on the advice of the very officials of the department's south-western regional office who lost their case before the joint committee. Surely a travesty of good administration.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. SULLIVAN,
26 Milverton Crescent,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire,
November 12.

A view of St Paul's

From Mr Ken Sitters

Sir, The St Paul's precinct was built in the mid-sixties amid a considerable outcry over its design, including a public enquiry, a Lords debate, parliamentary questions, public demonstrations and much discussion in the media. Juxon House, interfering with the view of the cathedral from the front from Ludgate Hill, was particularly deplored by the then Dean, Dr Matthews, and many others.

One consolation was offered to the objectors: in *The Times* of April 21, 1964, the reply of the Government spokesman, Sir John Arbuthnot, to a PQ is reported as follows:

The Church Commissioners are under a contractual liability to conform exactly to the agreement entered into by Sir William Holford. It will be of interest to note that the contract, *inter alia*, stipulates that when the building is complete the commissioners will provide, free of any rent, some 13,000 sq ft of floor space for use by the public for viewing the cathedral. Planning consent would become void if any alteration were made in the plan.

Why, then, has the public observation gallery on the roof of Juxon House remained closed to the public for the last thirteen years? The corporation's town clerk tells me that in 1972 it was "agreed" that the gallery should be closed "in the interests of economy" (not "of security", as might be imagined). Such "agreement" was certainly not come to with the approval of the public, who were to be the beneficiaries of the contract.

Surely the "interests of economy", in one of the richest tourist targets in the world, should not be allowed to rob them and the annual millions of visitors from abroad of this intended amenity?

Yours sincerely,
K. SITTERS,
46 Harborough Road,
Streatham, SW16,
October 30.

Docklands inquiry

From the Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission

Sir, I was pleased to see your report (November 14) of the views of the Royal Fine Art Commission on the proposals to develop Canary Wharf. Unfortunately it was not complete as it made no reference to the commission's concern over the looseness of the development plan and the fact that a number of critical problems had not been resolved.

The commission intends to respond at once to the offer of the developer to discuss the planning and aesthetic issues involved.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN ST JOHN-STEVAS,
Chairman,
Royal Fine Art Commission,
2 Carlton Gardens, SW1,
November 14.

University blacklist

From Professor C. R. W. Spedding
Sir, You recently (November 2) published the completion rates for postgraduate students funded by ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council). This showed that many students took much longer than the four-year period regarded as reasonable for completion of their PhD degrees by research.

The impression given to those unfamiliar with the system is that many students are paid from public funds whilst taking many years

longer to finish their research degrees than they should.

What may not be clear is that none of these students receives financial support for more than three years. This is the grant given and if it takes longer to complete the work - often for understandable reasons and resulting in better research - the additional years are at the student's own expense. The grant is not extended and the universities do not fund them either.

The result is that most commonly the student leaves the university to take a job and completes the work

Putting pressure on South Africa

From the General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers

Sir, Professor Mandelstam's letter (November 13) queries whether an honourable record of opposition to apartheid should condition the attitude of professional bodies like the World Archaeological Congress or of members of the Association of University Teachers to distinguished visitors from South Africa. But the issue is not about individuals.

There are many heroic people in South Africa fighting apartheid as best they can, and many of them are in the academic community. AUT's purpose in discouraging official cultural and academic contacts with South Africa is to reinforce their protests, not undermine them.

At the English-speaking universities, despite such protests, only 10 per cent are black students, and they must have ministerial permission to follow courses not available at their own "ethnic" universities. We assert the need for the genuine exercise of academic freedom, as well as the other basic freedoms denied to the black majority.

AUT is committed to pressure for peaceful change in South Africa. Members decided we should do more than carry well-meaning resolutions at our representative councils. The recent shootings in South Africa indicate only too clearly that such efforts, both inside and outside South Africa, have yet to succeed in convincing the South African Government of the need for radical change.

One should not be under any illusion that any contacts - academic, cultural, sporting or whatever - are not exploited to the full by the South African authorities to give their regime respectability. Representatives of the black population have called on organisations like ours to boycott such contacts with South Africa.

My association recognises that such action is controversial. However, there is no doubt that it is an encouragement to those fighting within South Africa for elementary human rights. The timely gesture being made by the organisers of the World Archaeological Congress will add further pressure to the demands for change to which we hope the South African Government will feel compelled to respond. Such moral pressure is clearly essential if peaceful change is to be achieved.

Yours sincerely,
DIANA WARWICK,
General Secretary,
Association of University Teachers,
United House,
1 Pembroke Road, W11,
November 14.

Victorian values

From Mr Adrian Sansom

Sir, I had never thought that I would have had the opportunity to agree with Mr Tebbitt, but in his campaign to brush up the standards of morality in this country (report, November 14) he has provoked my fullest support. Why, only recently we have had allegations of fraud involving the Bank of England, heavy fines and suspensions at Lloyd's, wheeling and dealing takeover battles, writs for libel issued between major newspapers, drunken peers, drug dealing in posh colleges... how I support him in his worthy venture.

Yours, etc.
ADRIAN SANSON,
Gorewell, Chilham,
Canterbury, Kent.

Threat to South-east

From Councillor Geoffrey H. Taylor

Sir, Professor Hall's article, "Land of green ginger groups" (October 24), was a timely warning of the threat to the South-east's environment by the housebuilders. In one particular, alas, Professor Hall is very much mistaken. The crisis caused by the 8,000 houses allocated by Mr Heseltine to central Berkshire, over and above Berkshire's structure plan, has not been resolved.

In fact the battle to resist this gross overdevelopment, which effectively absorbs several villages and hamlets into Bracknell New Town, is now at its height. Only this week, all Berkshire's MPs met with Kenneth Baker and an east Berkshire conservative delegation briefed Norman Tebbitt, lobbying against Berkshire's overdevelopment.

The Berkshire County Council, of which I am a member, is working round the clock to prepare a structure plan which is, in effect, aiming to squeeze a quart into a pint pot.

We in Berkshire believe that this 8,000 house matter is a small but significant watershed in the future development of the South-east. Do we take the easy course and tear up our green fields, or do we bite the bullet (an unfortunate cliché) and rebuild our towns and cities for people to live in?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY H. TAYLOR,
Shire Hall,
Shinfield Park,
Reading, Berkshire,
October 25.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 16 1865

The American Civil War ended in May 1865 and during the next few months The Times Correspondent (probably J. C. Davis) toured the places which had seen much fighting. Harper's Ferry's place in American history is assured for it was there that the abolitionist John Brown led an unsuccessful insurrection in 1859; he was executed on December 2, 1859.

MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
HARPER'S FERRY, OCT. 27

The railroad from Baltimore to Harper's Ferry runs through a picturesque and beautiful valley, the hills on either side glittering with the bright and varied tints of an American autumn, until one of the most interesting spots on the road is touched - the "Point of Rocks." Here the Potomac first comes into sight, running over the shelves of rocks, easily found even now in many parts, and in the dry season scarcely existing in volume an ordinary mountain brook. Between the river and the rail runs the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the road, the canal, and the river all running close by the side of each other, and the hills on both sides fringing the landscape with foliage of a thousand glorious hues. From this point the traces of war become more and more distinct. The railway bridge across the Monocacy which the Confederates destroyed has been restored, but there is another bridge close by which is still in ruins, and near to it is the battlefield of Monocacy, where part of the battle of South Mountain was fought. A few miles further in the valley is Harper's Ferry, the dearest and most disconsolate little village - as the tale of the war is told with a little exaltation in their manner in all Virginia. The Government manufactory of arms formerly stood here, but the Confederates swept down upon it at an early period of the war in 1861, carried away all the arms, and left nothing but blackened walls standing. The little bridge of the canal railway which John Brown used in his memorable raid, and in which he confined his prisoners, stands by the side of the road, pretty much the same as when he left it the prisoner of General Robert E. Lee, then in the service of the United States. The boys have been hard at work on the doing, doing excellent sums in simple addition, written in chalk, and inscribing plentifully the names of the famous who thought to take Virginia with 22 men. An ingenious lad had written "John Brown, not at home." Others had carved their initials with their knives. One of the railway servants was among the prisoners taken by John Brown, a stolid-looking man, who told me just now that John Brown said, when he captured him, "He guessed there would be no more railroading for some days," but that otherwise he said very little, and did not seem quite right in his mind. Many of the houses around are riddled with shot and shell, the marks of the numerous attacks upon this place, and the bare walls of a Methodist chapel look grimly down from the hill side. Close to the left hand of "John Brown's Fort" is a little wooden shanty with a board stuck outside signifying that within is a billiard saloon and a shooting gallery. Then there is a little sweetest store, a gloomy inn, a line of houses in ruins, and on either side rise the bold ranges of hills called the Maryland Heights and the Loudon Heights on the Virginia shore, evidently originally one chain, and now divided by the Potomac and the Shenandoah. The main street of the village runs up to the Bolivar Heights where Colonel Miles, of the Union army, was shot, and where he surrounded his 8,000 men to the Confederates, led by Stonewall Jackson, in a hillside saloon and a shooting gallery. Then there is a line of houses in ruins, and on either side rise the bold ranges of hills called the Maryland Heights and the Loudon Heights on the Virginia shore, evidently originally one chain, and now divided by the Potomac and the Shenandoah. 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ILLS trombone

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November 16-22, 1985

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Comics who stand up for themselves

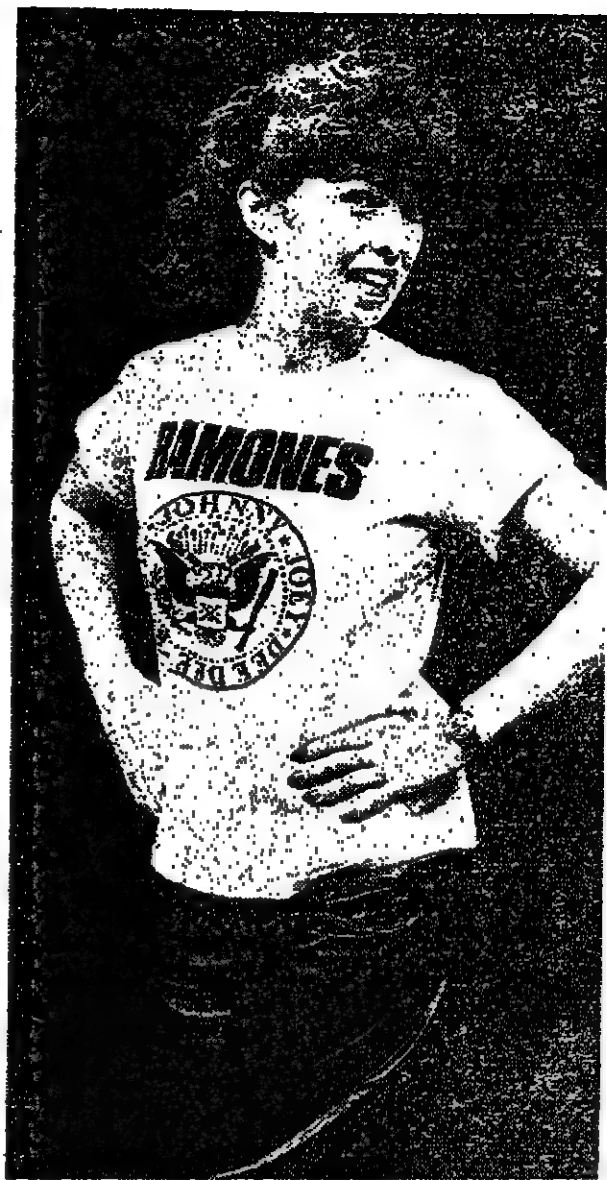
Alternative cabaret, now in its sixth hilarious season, is here to stay. Tristan Davies and Hilary Janes charted the rise of the new-wave comedians, without hearing one single joke about mothers-in-law

Saturday night in Soho. The smell of Peking duck and hot dogs fills the air and the streets are buzzing with crowds of sensation-seekers. Tucked away in Leicester Square, a doorway leads down into a dimly-lit basement club, where the atmosphere is thick with cigarette smoke. The punters buy a drink and find a table, but the 20 or so seats nearest the tiny stage remain conspicuously empty. At London's infamous Comedy Store the aficionados who have gathered for another night of riotous assembly well know the first rule of alternative comedy: don't sit at the front.

Do so and you might be trodden on by the Vicious Boys, have your hair restyled by the Flamin' Hamsters or find yourself on stage wearing a crash helmet with a chocolate flake sticking out of your mouth while Whack and Zane juggle clubs around your head. And that's only a quiet night.

Such bizarre scenes are common now seven nights a week in cabaret pubs and clubs across the capital from Clapham to Crouch End, as alternative cabaret enters its sixth glorious season.

Still predominantly London based, the movement first attracted a following in the sleazy confines of a strip club - the original home of the Comedy Store in Meard Street. At midnight, after the girls had gone, comedy devotees would file in to hear society's sacred cows made mincemeat of as performers strove to beat hecklers and their cries of "gong" and leave the stage with their reputations intact.



Kit Hollerbach: her American cousins 'have to shout to be heard over their clothes'

But the gong, like many of the original performers, has disappeared from the regular club circuit. Just as the Establishment Club spawned the *That Was The Week That Was* generation of comics and satirists in the 1960s, so the early graduates of the Comedy Store and Comic Strip can be seen today in television sitcoms of their own.

The passing of such names as Rik Mayall, French and Saunders, Adrian Edmondson and Alexei Sayle from small clubs to small screen, has left the way clear for new waves of comics to carry the spluttering torch of alternative comedy. And on some nights it burns brighter than others.

One bright star of the old school, but still to be found in

the clubs, is former accountant Arnold Brown. A Glaswegian Jew ("two racial stereotypes for the price of one") he claims to have a cult following. "The particular cult following me at the moment is the Hare Krishna movement, and I wish they'd leave me alone."

Sparkling, too, are the inspired improvisers Jim Sweeney and Steve Steen, who can weave a hysterically funny skit out of such diverse subjects suggested by the audience, such as Oldham Municipal Baths, Paris and Paddington Station.

It can be a risky business - and not just for the performers. As a punter you can find yourself in an uncomfortable, draughty room above a pub in an audience (which if you include yourself and the barman numbers 11), cringing with embarrassment at a performer's ineptitude. Watching someone die slowly on stage is not a pleasant experience, but a well-aimed heckle often ensures sudden death and the comic's exit.

In the old days heckling added to the sense of danger. As one performer at the early Comedy Store put it: "Standing up here in front of you lot is like challenging a shoal of piranha fish to a game of water polo." But today people seem more prepared to listen. And if the hecklers have lost their edge, then so has a lot of the material. Instead of laughing about cruise missiles and Norman Tebbit's bicycle, you are more likely to sit with a bottle of wine, eat delicious and healthy food and listen to Jeremy Hardy, the self-confessed middle-class comedian, recounting childhood tales of life in Surrey. "In my village it was very conservative. They were still hunting Methodists."

The political edge is still there but jibes at the police and the media are interspersed with jokes about the current tastes for food, fitness and, of course, sex. Of all kinds.

Sometimes the wires cross, to very entertaining effect. Jenny Eclair, a reluctant feminist, cleverly combines sexual politics with food fads: "I can eat a man, but I'm not sure of the fibre content."

But one of the biggest attractions of alternative comedy is that many performers defy labelling. The surreal and original Norman Lovett, for example, recounts his recurring nightmares about all the hair he has ever shaved off coming back to visit him.

If some of the targets for satire are obvious, then so are the no-go areas. Arnold Brown says: "Alternative comedy has its own taboos. At the purest level it is supposed to be anti-stereotypes, non-sexist and non-racist... it might have been difficult to make any criticism of Bernie Grant's extremism."

Any performer who lets his or her street credibility slip to



Tony Morewood: northern comic 'more Brookside than Coronation Street' who flew south. Very funny... and very tall

make a joke about physical handicap will remember to apologize; a comic who jokes about his mother-in-law's birth will live to regret it if he survives the evening. On the other hand, women can and do make sexist jokes about men and get away with it.

Many of the "right on" comedians are trying to raise laughs and consciousness among an already "right on", mainly middle-class audience. (If you're "right on", you read *City Limits*, eat lentils and worry about heterosexism.) The irony is not lost on Arnold Brown. The prospect of performing before a working class audience in his native Glasgow fills him with dread: "I'd probably be stoned to death and that would be on a good night. You couldn't mention Kafka. They don't know who he plays for."

The point is echoed by another comedian who was invited to perform at a miners' benefit. One of the miners said to him after the show: "You were very funny, but if it wasn't for the wives we would have had a stripper."

Picking the right acts from the week's cabaret menu can be a difficult task as it varies so much in content and quality. But the sheer number of performers and venues bears witness to its popularity.

Tony Morewood, a promising stand-up comedian from Manchester who takes the business of being funny quite seriously, says: "People come for a cheap evening's entertainment and a drink."

Morewood, who has been working in London for two and a half years, played in punk bands and fringe theatre before graduating to cabaret. As a performer its appeal is clear to him. "In cabaret you are able to talk in the theatre everyone is behind a piece of glass. The sort of intimacy and the freedom you've got means you don't have to rely on other people. I like being in total control."

Arnold Brown is more sceptical: "A lot of people go into comedy to get the attention they never got as adults. Hitler did it by invading Poland."

The female trio Fascinating Aida, and French and Saunders, on the other hand, did it by studying drama. But many of today's young comedians have no formal training at all. They learned to perform in rock bands, juggling workshops or by busking on street corners. The Footlights mafia days are over.

Many performers may have one eye on an equity card and be dreaming of a television series but others, like Morewood, are happy to stay on the circuit. "I'm not dreaming of the man from Channel 4", he says.

Arnold Brown, who hints at a forthcoming television project, says his ambitions are simple: "I want to invade Poland."



Flamin' Hamsters: impromptu hair restyling for men whose haircuts 'say something CNDish'. Pictures by Donald Cooper

Star turns in a pack of jokers

One man's belly laugh can be another man's groan. With such an enormous range of acts, the only way to find out who'll have you rolling in the aisles is to go and find out for yourself. To get you started, here is a highly personal choice of some of the funniest performers on the circuit:

Kit Hollerbach, from San Francisco ("a lonely town for women") wins over British audiences with her jibes at American tourists. Her impersonations of the "Dead-End Kids", heroes of American cinema in the 1930s, can bring the house down.

The surreal vision and sardonic delivery of **Paul Martin** produce excellent black humour: "Did you know that more people die in hospital than in snack bars? I know where I'm going when I have a heart attack".

Cinema - the films and the advertisements - is one of the targets of **Tony Morewood's** parodies. He also has a bise spanky jacket. **Roy Huchins** tells men everything they needed to know about sex but found out too late.

One of the best double acts around is **Flamin' Hamsters**, two women whose ideas aren't always original but whose execution of them is better than most. One of them claims she went out with a member of the **Blue Peter** team but was put off by his cooking: "You'd have a flan he cooked and then you'd have to eat another one he'd made earlier". **Jim Sweeney** and **Steve Steen** are masters

of improvisation. Using suggestions from the audience, their spontaneous sketches don't always work, but when they do they are fresh, fast and hilarious.

For musical cabaret, **Fascinating Aida** are hard to beat. Three absurdly glamorous women, they have a witty, polished repertoire of songs on many of the issues the modern feminist cares about: wholefood, herpes and being in love with the Pope. At the other end of the spectrum, **Kevin Seisay**, from Manchester, has a bawdy style that is raw "right on" and very rude. **John Hegley** offers songs and poems in a beret.

The funniest juggling acts include **Whack and Zane**, who not only wear ridiculous costumes, but perform a juggling interpretation of *Das Kapital*. American magician **John Lenahan's** skills are more traditional, but audiences are mesmerized by what he can do with a salt cellar and two tassels on the end of a stick. Although his tongue is as quick as his tricks, he is a modest man: "This next trick is so difficult even I can't do it".

Performers receiving the ultimate accolade - to be recommended by other comedians - include **Fiasco Job Job**, **Joan Collins Fan Club**, **Vicious Boys** and **Skinz Video**.

Most of these performers appear in the cabaret listings in *Time Out* and *City Limits*. **Fascinating Aida** are appearing in their own show at the Lyric, Hammersmith (01-741 2311) from Nov 25-Dec 7 at 7.45pm, Mon-Sat. No part Disc 6.



Jim Sweeney and Steve Steen: risky, off the cuff skits. You provide the words, they make up the jokes



Arnold Brown: alternative comedy's George Burns

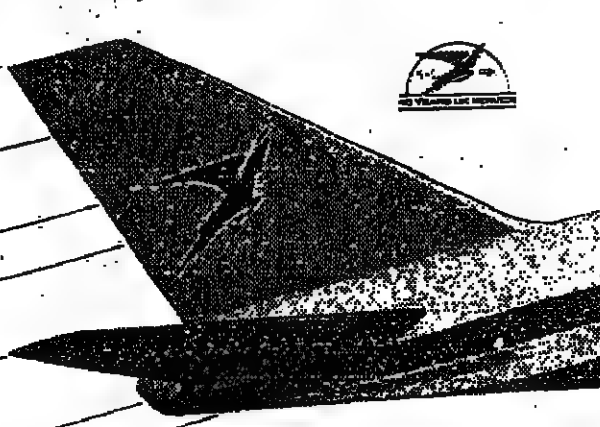
SATURDAY
Music for movies:
Carl Davis in conversation - p20

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TRAVEL EXPERT

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crowded so arrive by 5.30pm.
Oxford Arms, 285 Camden High Street, London NW1 (01-267 9724).

Birmingham: Triangle, Gosta Green (021 358 3979). New venue on Aston University campus will offer musical and stand-up acts culled from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe on alternate Fridays. Next session has The Millies, an all-women band, and Joolz, a comedienne/poetess. Doors open 9pm. Food and bar, £3.

Brighton: Zap Club offers music/comedy/poetry cabaret from 2-3 different performers, followed by a disco on Saturday nights. Tonight there is stand-up Johnny Immatanal, blues/jazz duo Barb Junger and Michael Parker, pianist Andy Smith. Starts about 9pm. Late bar and food, £2.50.
191-193 Kings Road Arches, Brighton, East Sussex (0273 775987).

Manchester: The Green Room is a booking agency that arranges cabaret in different venues in the city. Lapservice, "Manchester's favourite feminists" are in *Coming on Late!* at the Library Theatre, St Peter's Square, M1 at 10.45pm tonight. £2.50, £1.80 concs, Beryl and the Peris, a female trio, are in *Dead or Alive* at The Gallery, Peter Street, M1 on Nov 23 at 9.30pm. £2.50, £1.80 concs. Booking for both performances on 061 236 7110.

Sheffield: Lead Mill centre offers cabaret once or twice a month. Excellent, very cheap food and bar. £2, £1.50 concs.
5-7 Leadmill Road, Sheffield S1N 4SF (0742 754500).

Jeremy Hardy: his life and hard times. Inner-village angst and social deprivation in the Surrey countryside

PICK OF THE PUBS AND CLUBS

Canal Cafe Theatre: Home of the Newswave team who take a fresh, satirical look each week (Thurs-Sun at 10pm) at the latest news and topical events. Writers' credits include *Week Ending*, *Not the Nine o'clock News* and *Spitting Image*. Intimate atmosphere with very good optional food and wine (under £10 per head), also bar. Admission £2.50, £1.50 concs. Booking advisable.

The Bridge House, Westbourne Terrace Road, London W2 (01-289 6054).

Comedy Store: Where it all started. Sessions at 8pm and midnight on Sat and at 8pm on Sun offering four or five well-established acts and an audience spot. Late show not for the faint-hearted. Cheap bar and food. Admission £5.
28a Leicester Square, London WC2 (01-639 6665).

Douglas Warehouse Theatre: Current season has improvisation by Jim Sweeney and Steve Steen at 11pm on Fridays until Dec 13, accompanied by six-eight different performers each week. Late bar and snacks. £2 and £2.90.
41 Earlham Street, London WC2 (01-240 8320).

Jongleurs at the Comet: Fri and Sat night venue offering four-five acts with compere. Tables can be booked. Reasonably priced food and late bar. £3.50, £2.50 concs. The Comet, Lavender Gardens, London SW11 (01-871 2498).

Not the Camden Palace: Well-established Saturday night cabaret with three acts and a compere. Small room above a pub, soon

TRAVEL

Grandeur afloat in the wake of the gold rush



I had never much cared for cruising until I boarded the Rotterdam in Vancouver. Cruise ships seem increasingly like blocks of flats and the idea of being trapped on board for weeks of shuffleboard failed to appeal. But this voyage, from Vancouver up the Inside Passage to Skagway in Alaska, wasn't like that at all.

To begin with the Rotterdam is a real ship, built in the 1950s and one of the last of the great ocean liners still in commission. It's part of a bygone age, alas, and therefore comfortable, stylish, and clearly the pride and joy of her captain and crew.

Then there is the journey, this voyage to Alaska up the Inside Passage - a sea highway winding its way between the mainland coast of British Columbia and the Alaska Panhandle, and the green offshore islands of the North Pacific. Almost certainly this is the greatest attraction of all. For this is one of the world's great journeys with a history all its own, for this sea road follows the old trail of the 98'ers on their way to the Klondike goldfields.

One summer day in July 1897, the SS Portland docked at Seattle and unloaded two tons of gold. A week later another arrived in San Francisco with double that amount, and within days gold fever was spreading across America. Gold had been found in the Yukon, rumour had it that nuggets littered the ground up there and millions could be made overnight on Bonanza Creek off the Klondike river.

Into Skagway came all the riff-raff of the dying frontier

Cashiers left their tills, barbers their half-shaved customers. The Mayor of Seattle quit his job and left for the North Country, followed by half the train drivers so that all the city transport came to a halt. Five hundred women chartered a ship in New York and set off for the Yukon to find rich husbands.

It is said that within a month, 100,000 people had set out for the Klondike and, of the 20,000 who made it to the goldfields, nine out of ten sailed this way up the sea road to Skagway.



It is hard to imagine such an event today, although it has only just passed out of living memory. This gold rush was the last great adventure - a final romantic flurry of the Old West. Into Skagway came a host of honest folk and all the riff-raff of the dying frontier - gamblers, gunfighters, whores and bar-keepers - until, by the time winter set in in 1897, Skagway had become what a Canadian Mountie, watching all this from the nearby border, was later to describe as "... the next best thing to a hell on earth".

Well, that was all two lifetimes ago, and most of those now embarking on this voyage to the north have already made their pile and necessarily so, for getting to the north is expensive, a word the old stamperers could not stand. A certain Pat Galvin took a million in gold dust out of his claim and spent it within two years - ah, they just don't make men like that any more.

We steamed out under the great Lions Gate Bridge bound for the north and two days' sailing brought us to the little Alaskan port of Ketchikan, the salmon capital of the world. Great salmon were being finned quietly in the clear waters of the creek, waiting to make their spawning run upstream. I must add that it rains in Ketchikan. The editor of the local paper told me that if it doesn't rain for three days they call it a drought. In fact we were lucky and the day was fine during our short stop ashore, just long enough to do a little shopping and explore the old clapboard houses on Creek Street before boarding for our journey to Juneau, the little capital of a great state.

Until 1867 Alaska belonged to Russia. Then the Americans wisely bought it for the asking price of two cents an acre, and in 1959 it became the 49th State of the Union, though separated from what the Alaskans call "The Lower 48" by British Columbia and the Yukon.

In Alaska even the statistics are impressive. It is twice the size of Texas. One of the Alaskan National Parks alone is as big as the State of New Jersey. It has 35,000 miles of coastline, a million lakes, 12 major river systems, Mount McKinley - the highest mountain in North America, half the world's glaciers, and hardly any people.

That apart though, it's the grandeur that gets you. I spent all that afternoon and most of the night (since it rarely gets dark here in summer) gazing at the coastline as it slipped past close by, quite entranced.

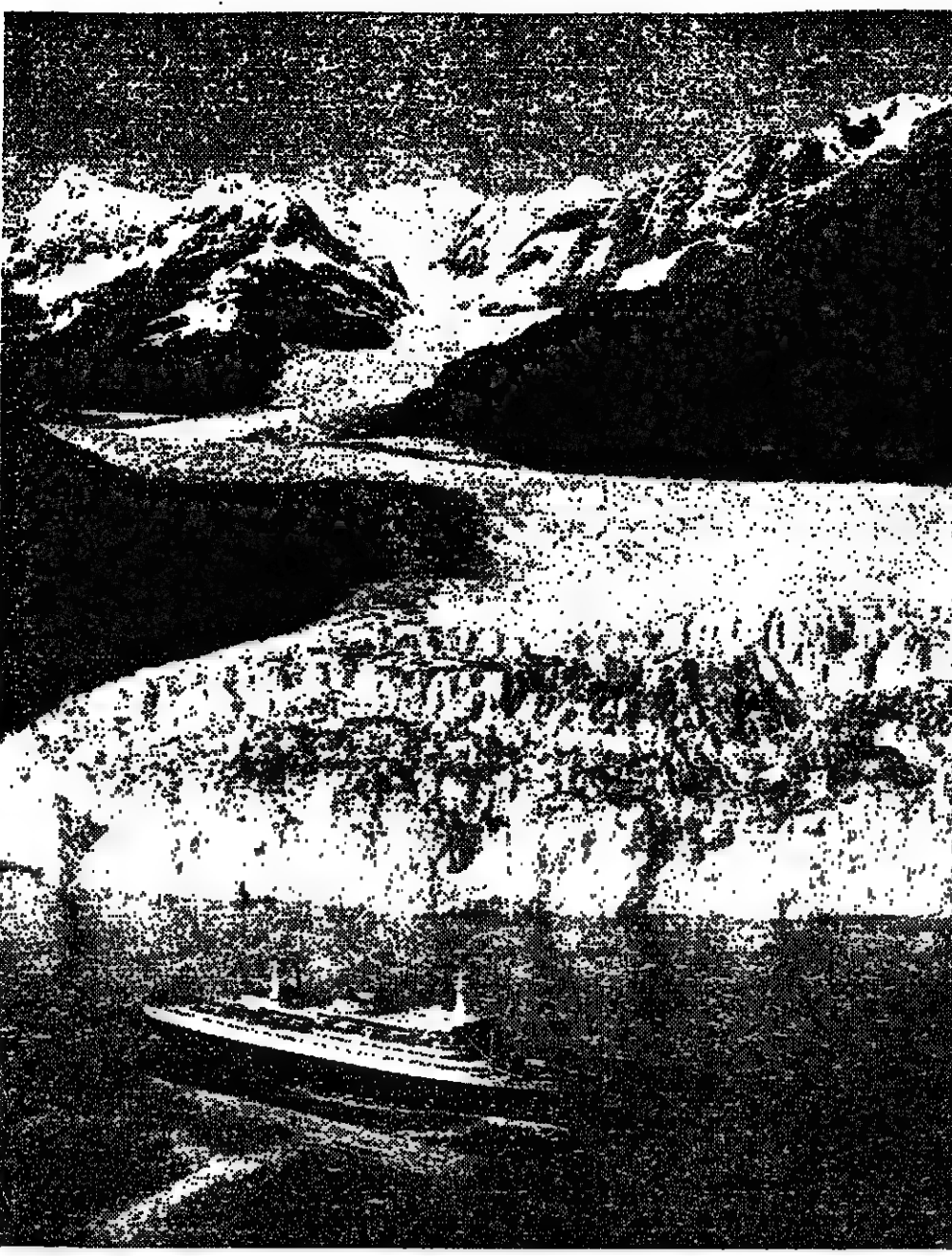
This is how the world must have looked after the Ice Age

Dawn and Juneau, only 26,000 people but the capital of Alaska. It is a pretty place, inaccessible by land and set at the bottom of the green, steep-sided Gastineau Channel, pin-point on this sharp summer morning. Here most of us disembarked and after a side trip to the mighty Mendenhall glacier, a ribbon of ice 12 miles long and 300 feet high, embarked on a small motor vessel, the Fairweather. This was the last leg of our voyage, up the 100-mile Lynn Canal to our final destination at Skagway.

The Lynn Canal was discovered in 1792 by the English navigator Captain George Vancouver, who thought it the most beautiful place he had ever seen and therefore named it after his home town, King's Lynn in Norfolk.

It is a vast fjord, running north from Juneau, narrowing along the way between green, snow-capped mountains, with great glaciers and waterfalls sweeping down from the crests above into the clear blue sea.

Here and there pods of killer whales foraged past, their sickle fins slashing through the blue waters. We passed a sea-lion colony while onshore, perched watchfully at regular intervals among the trees, the bald eagle looks out for fish.



Unearthly spot: Rotterdam, a 1950s ocean liner, cruising through Glacier Bay in Alaska

And there was one final diversion for, as one guide on the Fairweather said, "You can't come all the way to Alaska and not see Glacier Bay, so book your flight now, folks".

Glacier Bay is an awesome place, frankly primeval. When we broke out of the clouds, there it was below, an unearthly spot. This is how the world must have looked after the last Ice Age: a barren place, the bare rock scraped clean by the glaciers, the sea full of bergs and ice floes. On the bare slopes around the bay, mountain sheep scampered, while on the ice floes which littered the steel grey sea, the seals rested, safe there from the killer whales circling below.

Skagway is the northern port of the Lynn Canal and only 208 people live there today, but in

1898 the miners' arrival made it the largest town in Alaska. Today it thrives on memories and much of the nightlife still centres on the Red Onion Saloon, once a brothel and bar frequented by such local luminaries as Diamond-Tooth Gertie, Charlie Anderson (called the Lucky Swede, who took a million in gold dust from a claim he won in a card game while drunk), and Arkansas Jim, who bought a wife for \$20,000.

The town's most famous son is still Jefferson "Soapy" Smith, a con-man and gunfighter who preyed on the prospectors and suffered the destined fate of all Western badmen, being shot to death in a gunfight with one of the city marshals.

Rob Neillands

Cares to the wind in a great escape



Is there anything to dislike about Denmark? Our guide leant even further back in the cockpit of our Elvstrøm 95 cruising yacht, gazed distantly over the water and pondered a while. Then he said: "I think we're a bit too tolerant."

It was easy to see what he meant. To the visitor, this astonishingly "laid-back" nation appears ideal for holiday-making; but living here could become cloyingly claustrophobic. Even the punks are elegant, their spiky hairdos rather too recently coiffured.

Denmark's sense of taste and civilized living is a far cry from her Viking ancestors. But the sea is her heritage and what better way to discover the people than under sail?

No need here for charterers' forms and navigation certificates: hiring a boat is as simple as spitting in the wind, and the modern Danes have at least retained their skill in building boats for the occasion. Our 36-footer was simply handled, even squeezing through harbour entrances that made you want to breathe out before sailing on.

There are other benefits. Contrary to expectations of the dark and dismal North, Denmark gets a lot more sunshine than the Solent, enjoys fresher winds, and has none of the gross excesses of our over-crowded South Coast marinas.

Along the Øresund (the straits narrowly separating Denmark from her love-hate sister, Sweden) lie the small coastal villages, full of yellow-oiled painted thatched cottages and painted inns. The latter, it must be said, are the chief attraction. It is almost worth the return fare to Copenhagen, which was our start and finish point, merely to eat smoked salmon steeped in mustard sauce, or a £7 smorgasbord which goes on for ever.

We were even rewarded with a view of a replica longship, sailed by an bearded Danish dad on an afternoon out with the family. Amid all this upstanding family decency it comes as a pleasant relief to visit Helsingør (Hamlet's Elsinore) and find that the town is now a refuge for Swedes escaping the rigid conformity of their own society. They can be found past midnight on the back-streets, sitting on six-packs on the pavement and staring dourly at the next drink, presumably wondering how they are going to get home.

The answer is on one of the infernal ferries that ply the nine-

mile gap between the two countries at the point where Kronborg Castle (setting of *Hamlet*) overlooks the Øresund. They are the main reason I would not advise any but experienced sailors to attempt the passage: three ferries cross every 15 minutes, and they stop or turn for no one.

The castle itself ought to be a disappointment. Far from the image created by romantic theatre tradition, of gaunt ruins set on remote windswept cliffs, Kronborg is actually an impeccably neat schloss, more like a copper-roofed barracks. Built in 1585, it would have been one of the most modern castles in Europe in Shakespeare's day, and there can be no doubt he knew of it, since records of London players putting on touring shows at Kronborg still lie in its vaults.



Neat schloss: Kronborg castle

The Danes have a fearfully equal society in which taste rules supreme, and they demean themselves by comparing the Tivoli gardens to Battersea fun fair, or the canals of Nyhavn to revamped Covent Garden. There you can sip cocktails on a converted lightship before a night out in Copenhagen's clubs. The Tivoli itself must not be missed. With a mime show that stands up to anything in *Les Enfants du Paradis*, as well as fair rides that baffle invention, it is designed as much for adults as children.

And escaping the metropolis is simple. Bicycles are easily hired, and the country is so little populated with cars that it almost does not matter if you forget to ride on the right side of the road. One suspects that, even if you did, Danish tolerance would put it down to the contagion of casualness. Certainly I have found few countries where it is easier to escape.

Colin Hughes

Piste haste for a little skiing secret

You won't find any Siamese Rangers in La Thuile, a small village on the Italian side of Mount Blanc, whose skiing reputation seems to have been jealously guarded by its countrymen.

It is not mentioned even in the latest, otherwise remarkably comprehensive, *Which Skiing Guide*. The occasional Frenchman strays over the border, but there are no Germans, Swedes, Dutch or Americans.

The Italians, however, hold La Thuile in high regard, and with justification, for it has far more tough skiing than many a

better-known resort - such as Courmayeur, for instance.

Snow is pretty reliable, with 50 miles of pistes running from the Belvedere peak at 2,642 metres down to the village at 1,441 metres. Access is by cable car, or chair lifts, with drag lifts further up.

At the top level there is too much featureless "motorway" skiing, and even in March it can be very cold and windy. But the real joy of skiing in La Thuile is the series of long red and black runs down to the resort. There are seven main routes, with

variations, partly through trees and up to seven miles long. There is plenty of scope off-piste, and you can ski into the small French resort of La Rosière on the same lift pass.

La Thuile's obscurity is simply due to the lack of development, and at the moment it is largely a weekend resort. For the package tourist, therefore, it is blissfully free of queues for most of the week.

The old village has its rustic attractions, shops with an extraordinary variety of luridly-coloured local liqueurs in curiously-shaped bottles; a once grand, now lumpy hotel by the river, a ubiquitous smell of drains, and an army barracks. There is one decent restaurant, a good pizzeria and a handful of other eating places which never seemed to be open during our visit. It has a long way to go before it matches Courmayeur for apres-ski.

But this state of affairs will surely change within a few years, as the Planibel apartment and hotel complex has just

been completed only a few yards away from the main cable-car station.

This complex is one of the best designed I have come across. The apartments are big, comfortable and there is an excellent supermarket in the complex, selling fresh pasta, meat, a limited selection of vegetables, and wine.

The hotel has two swimming pools and there are saunas and Turkish baths attached.

Rupert Morris

TRAVEL NOTES

Skischools/Schools Abroad (0444 459921) offer a week in La Thuile, bed and breakfast, for between £159 and £225, depending on season, including flight from Gatwick or Luton. Additional costs for ski hire lessons and lift pass.



Powder puff: snow is reliable at La Thuile

TRAVEL NOTES

Bare-boat bookings for Denmark can be made through Blake Holidays, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 6DH. Hire costs range from £230 to £465 a week, depending on boat size and season, plus £195 'returnable deposit'. Charts are provided on all boats but it is advisable to take *Baltic South West Pilot*, by Mark Brackenbury (published by Stanford Maritime, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP, price £11.95), an excellent account of the area with full passage notes and detailed harbour charts. The Øresund area of the Baltic has minimal tide and few difficult currents.

Syrian selection

Packages to Syria are more readily available than our article of October 26 stated. British tour operators now offering



holidays include: Jasmin Tours (06285 29444); Bales Tours (0306 885991); Serenissima (01-730 7281); Inter Church (01-499 4000); and Trail Finder (01-937 9631).

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CHES

A revolutionary hero seizes power

I interrupt our series on the great champions of the past to pay tribute to the great champion of the present. The game which brought Gary Kasparov final victory and the supreme title in his match with Anatoly Karpov was superb.

It witnessed an attack described by David Bronstein as "outstandingly brilliant - one of the most impressive in the 100 years' history of the Championship". The middlegame offensive which Kasparov unleashed was so resolute that grandmaster experts in the Moscow press room were, at first, quite baffled by the depth of Black's conception.

Last Saturday's game typified the clash of style of the world's two best players. As the match started, 1 characterized Karpov as "essentially repressive" and Kasparov as "basically revolutionary" in their respective approaches to the solution of chessboard problems. Towards the end I amplified this in an assessment published on the "Spectrum" page. "In Moscow the conflict is currently seen as one of materialism versus sacrifice. Time after time, Kasparov has sacrificed pieces. In game 11 he even parted with

his Queen, the most powerful piece, to launch a devastating attack. In sharp contrast, Karpov has to entrench himself and absorb the shock attacks". White: Karpov. Black: Kasparov. 24th World Championship game. Moscow. Sicilian Defence.

Requiring only a draw, Kasparov still selects the sharpest possible defence against White's opening move.

So far this position had already occurred in the match, but Karpov's 15th move constitutes an aggressive thrust which is a new departure for him. The disadvantage is that this pawn move leaves a vacuum in its wake which may present a future source of weakness.

Varying from the game Sokolov-Ribli, just played in the

Raymond Keene analyses the game which clinched the world title for Gary Kasparov

Montpellier Candidates' tournament and published in Moscow only two days before this game. There White tried 17 B-N2 met by 17...N-QR4. Karpov tries to improve White's conduct of the attack.

Introducing an apparently crude, but nevertheless dangerous attacking scheme.

White hopes to follow up with Q-R4 and P-B5 but his offensive is hampered by the distance of his Knights from the main scene of action.

Kasparov's defence is extremely profound, culminating in this apparently mysterious massing of his Rooks in the confined spaces of the closed King's file. The main idea is to discourage White from playing P-B5 when the answer...KPxP will per-

mit Black's Rooks to rampage down the newly opened central file.

Kasparov breaks out and his Rooks soon begin to play their part in his counter-attack. The text involves an imaginative sacrifice of his Queen's Knight's Pawn.

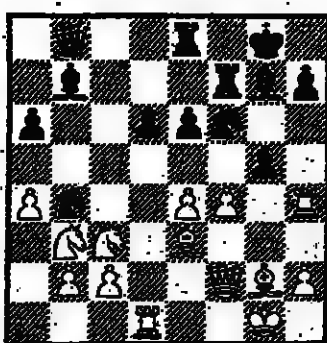
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An unexpected blow sweeping the remaining shackles from Black's forces. In the last few minutes of play, with the World Champion in desperate trouble, the White position is now utterly routed.



This loses a piece, but 36 QxQ RxQ is also terrible.

Threatening a double mate on K8 which Kasparov sidesteps.

White now resigned the game and the title. It was not too late for Kasparov to make a tragic blunder and lose everything after 42...KxR?? 43 Q-B3ch but it should be noted that 42...N-K6 dis ch is also extremely strong.

The games were of a universally high level. Karpov, as might be expected, revealed the positional and strategic mastery of his hero Capablanca while Kasparov fused the profound openings research of his mentor Botvinnik with the dynamism of Alekhine.

Kasparov's achievement here surpasses even that of Bobby Fischer when he defeated Spassky in their classic match in Reykjavik, 1972. Karpov's resistance was vastly more impressive than Spassky's, 13 years ago. And there can be no doubt concerning the new champion's creative credo: "Although chess contains elements of sport and science, for me it is primarily an art".

Manoeuvres in Moscow: Karpov - Kasparov II, full account of the match by Raymond Keene and David Goodman was published by Batsford (£5.95) on Wed.



Ready to pounce: Gary Kasparov (right) poised to make his decisive move against Anatoly Karpov last Saturday

OUT AND ABOUT

Home truths on Darwin, the family man

Don't be put off by the facade. If ever a house turned its worst side to the road, it is Down House. When Charles Darwin first saw it he described it as "ugly, looks neither old nor new" - and all his subsequent alterations did little to improve matters. But of course the interest is all on the inside and at the back.

Darwin lived at Down House for 40 years, his widow for 15 more, and here they raised their large family. The house is just outside the remarkably pretty and countrified village of Downe, which is only 16 miles from London and a 10-minute drive out of Orpington. Darwin chose this retired spot for various reasons, notably his chronic ill-health which tied him to a rigid daily routine. Not that it prevented him doing the work of any two modern scientists and writing the central book of the 19th century, *The Origin of Species*.

Anyone whose grasp of evolutionary theory is a little shaky will profit from the lucid educational displays at Down. You can also learn about Darwin's extraordinary grandfather Erasmus who was physician, scientist, philosopher and poet. A lot of the exhibits relating to Charles concern the voyage of HMS Beagle - the journey to South America which had such a dramatic effect on his thought. There is even the original manuscript of his Beagle diaries. More homely items include a mirror which he fixed outside his study window to give advance warning of visitors.

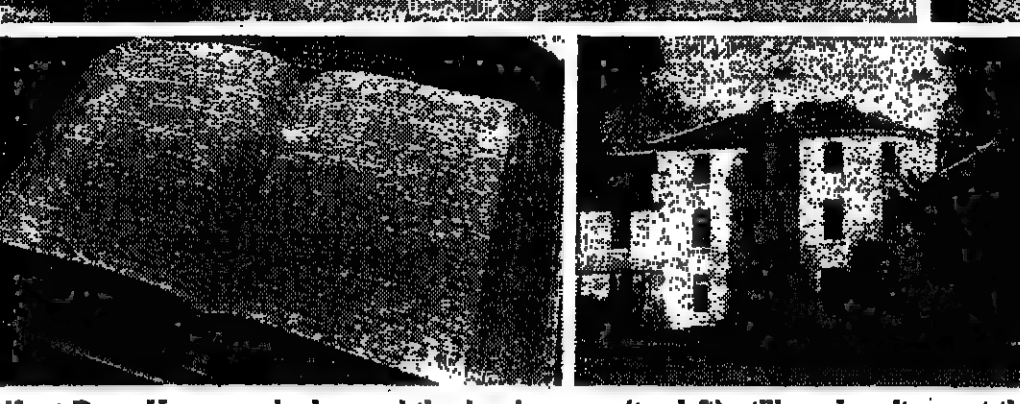
The home life of the Darwins centred on the large and airy

drawing room, which has been re-created almost exactly as it was. There is the grand piano on which Mrs D used to play to her husband (who was apparently tone-deaf), and the original chaise-longue, chairs and bureau. A case of relics has some particularly touching mementoes of their daughter Annie, who died at the age of nine.

The old study is the room in which nearly all of Darwin's scientific work was done. This has been reconstructed with great precision and practically everything here is original. It is a cluttered, busy, atmospheric room, where the authenticity even extends to a spittoon and a "lavatory enclosure" in one corner.

Darwin found walking helped his train of thought, and if you step into the garden you can follow the very route on which he did all his best thinking. This is the Sandwalk which he laid out around the edge of the grounds and along to a clump of woodland. He took this circular walk at least twice a day, whatever the weather, alone or with whichever children were about.

The garden itself is pleasant and the back of the house much easier on the eye than the front. On the verandah, which was the centre of family life in the summer, Darwin's wicker chair sits quietly moulting. The Worm Stone is still in the lawn: this was a device for measuring the rate at which the action of worms causes objects to sink into the ground, a subject of lifelong fascination to Darwin. The great scientist was also



Life at Down House revolved around the drawing room (top left), still much as it was at the time of Charles Darwin (top right). He wrote *The Origin of Species* here, based on the diaries of his voyage on the HMS Beagle to South America (above left). Darwin liked to do his hard thinking while walking in the grounds of Down House (above centre), which contain the Worm Stone (above right), his pet experiment into the rate at which worms cause objects to sink into the earth

an exceptionally fond father and such a popular playmate that one of his children once tried to bribe him with sixpence to come out of his study and play. Down House was very much a family home, and something of this warm atmosphere of its Victorian heyday seems to have lingered there.

It is easy to sense why the place was always remembered with such vivid affection by so many, including Darwin's granddaughter Gwen Raverat. In her memoir, *Period Piece*, she sums it up nicely: "To us, everything at Down was perfect. That was an axiom. And by us I mean, not only the children, but all the uncles and aunts who belonged there... Everything there was different. And better."

Nigel Andrew
Down House, Downe, Orpington, Kent, (068 59119). Open Tues-Thurs and weekends from 1-5pm. Closed Feb, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

OUTINGS

WORDSWORTH'S WINTER WONDERLAND: Lakeland day trips include a motor-launch cruise of Windermere, visit to the Lake District National Park Centre at Brockhole, candlelit wine reception, poetry reading and tour of Wordsworth's house. Bowness Pier, Bowness, Windermere, Cumbria. Further information (09662 3360). Today and Sat until Easter 1986, from 11.30am-5.30pm. £4.70 per person.

SOLOMON GRUNDY... Birth, marriage and death from Victorian times to the present. Displays include swaddling clothes, Davy's Elbow - baby's opium tranquilizer - and the impossible to clean "murder bottle". There is a baby carriage, silent movie and a piece of Queen Victoria's wedding cake. Livesey Museum, 682 Old Kent Road, SE15 (01-639 5804). Today until June 14, 1986, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Free.

CAPITAL RADIO JUNIOR LONDON FILM FESTIVAL: Opens with *Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird*, Aprn and at the ICA today and tomorrow at 3pm. *Sesame* and *Sally*, a tale of a whale. Advance booking recommended. National Film Theatre, South Bank, London, SE1 (01-828 3232). ICA, Carlton House Terrace, SW1 (01-831 3847). Today until Dec 1. Tickets £1.70.

BRITISH CRAFT AND HOBBY FAIR: 200 leading craftsmen and hobby manufacturers show products and demonstrate crafts; a folk group and children's show are included. Brighton Centre, King's Road, Sea Front, Brighton, Sussex (0273 203131). Today tomorrow 10am-7.30pm. Adult £1.25, child 50p.

SHEPTON MALLET ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS FAIR: Many stands selling everything from jewellery to prints, paintings and antique furniture. The town itself is surrounded by some delightful countryside, ideal for weekend walks. Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallett, Somerset. Further information from Ann Stroud (0278) 69816. Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Admission: Adults 50p, children free.

HORTICULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS: November is the ideal time to plant, transplant and buy trees and shrubs. Learn how to choose, plant and maintain them. Winter Garden, Avory Hill Park, Avory Hill Road, Egham, London SE9 (01-850 2566). Tomorrow, 11am and 2pm. Free.

WEEKLY WALKS
Hampshire
Eastleigh
Winchester
Distance: 8 miles
The silvery eel of the River Itchen guides the walker from brick railway-spawned Eastleigh almost all the way to Winchester, the sweetest of English towns. The best way to get to Eastleigh is by train: it takes just over an hour from Waterloo for £8.80 return.
The walk starts boringly; turn right out of the station, cross the track, carry on a quarter of a mile and then you hit the Itchen. It is a beautifully clear trout stream, rushing down from the Hampshire Downs to meet the sea at Hamble, where Ted Heath of all moor their boots. Head north, keeping the Ford factory to your left. Soon you leave that behind and enter a world of herring water, swaying reeds and dazlingly green fields. Ducks waddle out of the way, the sheep can't be bothered. Every now and then a family of swans slide idly by. The path is wet chalk and slippery, but never difficult. You pass a couple of pubs, a spooky old country club and the water meadows until you



Watch the birds: see Junior Film Festival

TRAMPOLINING: Prelims and finals of the Hermes World Cup in which top trampolinists of both sexes and various ages compete for titles. Bar and restaurant open during normal hours. Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Norwood, London SE19 (01-778 0131). Tomorrow, prelims from 11am, finals 2-5pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.50.

THE HUMAN STORY: Major exhibition to be opened by the Queen on Wednesday. Visitors can handle ancient tools, see exclusive fossil finds and, in the light of new evidence, consider our future survival. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-502 0702). Thurs-Feb 23, 1986, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

Judy Froshaug
meet a busy road. Cross it and curve leftwards through Hockley Golf Course, until you see King Arthur's capital before you. Then it's down the hill to the river, passing the cathedral on the way to the station and home, Ordnance Survey map 185.
John Sweeney

BRIDGE

Fond memories of strange places

If you ask bridge players to recall their most memorable moment at the bridge table, they will invariably regale you with some brilliant play, won a tournament or should have done, had it chance not intervened.
Of course I have had my share of hard luck stories, but the occasions which stick in my mind are the unusual places where I have played the game. I shall never forget the tension of the past 10 rubbers in the £100-a-hundred challenge against Omar Sharif and the Italian Blue team, played in his penthouse suite. Every minute the hushed tones of the players were interrupted by the shrill jangle of the telephone as journalists from the other side of the world updated the score to meet their deadline.

I shall also always remember the colourful jamboree of the Indian Congress in New Delhi. The playing conditions were admirable, if unusual, and for the most part the tournament was blessed by balmy autumnal weather. Then the heavens opened. The water seeped under the carpets, and even the braziers of burning coals gave insufficient heat. We must have made a pitiful spectacle as we played the final matches huddled in our overcoats.

In early October another improbable venue joined the list. For three afternoons Victor Mollo and I played against all comers at Waterloo Station. The "challengers" were given a target on two skillfully prepared hands. If they succeeded, they won a "BBC Bridge Column" computer. Even failure was rewarded with a consolation prize.

The psychologist would have found much to interest him. The courtesy of the players to their partners, who were usually strangers to them; the interest of

the passers-by, including some of the railway porters who, I was delighted to discover, had an excellent grasp of the game; perhaps above all, that people could enjoy bridge even in the hurry-burry of a main-line station without losing their concentration despite the blare of the public address system.

Jeremy Rowe, of Weybridge, playing with Vick Morris of London, found the solution to this tricky hand.

Superficially there appears to be an inevitable loser in both the hands. In the first, the declarer's hand is a disaster. He has the K and Q of diamonds, but the A is in dummy. The declarer's task is to discard his losing diamond on the A and give up a heart. The Morton's fork coup derives its name from Cardinal Morton, a zealous tax collector in the reign of Henry VII. Morton argued that those who lived well should obviously afford to pay taxes, while the abstemious could be forced to disgorge their savings.

Jeremy Flint



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Classical records

Symphonic view of a wintry world

The first two recordings considered here both sport wintry landscapes on their sleeves; no coincidence, perhaps, with the record companies' sights already fixed on the Christmas market. Not that there is anything remotely merry about the depiction of Captain Scott hauling his sledges over the Great Barrier, which illustrates Bernard Haitink's magnificent new interpretation of Vaughan Williams's *Sinfonia Antartica*.

The picture serves as a reminder that this music started life as a film score (for *Scott of the Antarctic*), but as we listen to Haitink's magisterial unfolding of the Prelude, or his precise balancing of Vaughan Williams's wide-spaced string counterpoints, we realize that the Dutchman has a thoroughly symphonic view of the work. The details of the colourful scoring are scrupulously observed, but there is always a sense of momentum and purely musical development keeping the pictorialism in check.

It is good to hear a foreigner (albeit an honorary Briton like Haitink) championing Vaughan Williams so persuasively; and good, too, that EMI has provided the LPO with a

Vaughan Williams: *Sinfonia Antartica* LPO/Haitink EMI EL 27 0318 1 (1 black disc, also cassette).
Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No 1* Oslo PO/Jansons, Chandos ABRD 1139 (1 black disc, also CD and cassette).

Schumann: *Symphonies*, overtures Concertgebouw Orchest/Haitink, Philips 412 852-1 (3 black discs, also 3 cassettes or 2 CDs).
Bruckner: *Symphony No 3* Bavarian RSO/Kubelik, CBS IM 36033 (1 black disc, also cassette).

recording of immense depth and clarity. The sonic impact is nowhere more striking than at the organ's stunning entry in the "Landscape" movement.

Chandos's main hopes for Christmas sales will be pinned, appropriately on "Winter Dreams": Tchaikovsky's *First Symphony*. This has also been well recorded, in Oslo's fairly new concert hall. So much is admirable about Mariss Jansons's reading - the Oslo PO's playing - the silky, diaphanous quality of the opening movement; the arching dynamics with which Jansons shades the delightful Trio and the sense of foreboding he finds



Cold comforters: Tchaikovsky, Vaughan Williams, Bruckner and Schumann

in the subsequent coda; the well-drilled string playing in the finale - but one longed for just a little more individuality to be displayed.

Much of the wind phrasing, especially in the middle movements, sounds too smooth and bland; consequently the interpretation at times seems rather flat emotionally. Nevertheless this is an impressive record.

Back to Haitink, and a box set of Schumann's *Symphonies and Overtures* that will make many devotees of the composer very happy, and a few angry. His approach to the four

symphonies and the *Manfred* and *Genoveva* overtures is quite simple: he plays exactly what Schumann wrote. There are not too many top conductors who have done Schumann's idiosyncratic orchestration that courtesy. Of course, Haitink does have an advantage: the Concertgebouw Orchestra on its current form could play through *Hymns Ancient and Modern* and still keep one entranced.

What is more surprising is the ebullient, daring nature of Haitink's interpretations, of which only the "Rhenish" Symphony has been available before. The proto-Wagnerian aspects of the symphonies - the

portentous brass calls, the earnestly worked cyclic themes - are somehow rendered less pompous and more zestful, in Haitink's hands.

Schumann's syncretic and unarguably rather weird instrumental blends are almost playfully emphasised, right down to the unnaturally prominent triangle in the "Spring" Symphony, but it is Haitink's most un-Dutch indulgence in rubato (some extraordinarily bold pace changes in No 4, for instance) and in bailing dynamics which will be the talking-point of this set. Apart from a heavy, stamp-dominated account of the *Rhenish*'s first

movement, I was completely convinced.

Rafael Kubelik's new interpretation of Bruckner's Third Symphony has a sweeping grandeur which many will find attractive. For me, however, CBS's recording proved a severe distraction. It is far too kind to the brass in the overall balance of the tutti (especially as the Bavarian orchestra currently possesses a first trumpet with a pronounced vibrato) and tends to "spotlight" wind soloists, so that a single flute sometimes produces a dynamic level not far short of the preceding fortissimo.

Richard Morrison

In French or Italian, only the best will do

Verdi: *Don Carlos*
Ricciarelli/Valentini/Terrani/
Domingo/Nucci/Raimondi. La
Scala Orch/Abbado. Deutsche
Grammophon 415 316-2 (four
CDs, also black disc and cassette)

Don Carlos was the opera with which Claudio Abbado made his Covent Garden debut almost 20 years ago; his appearances at the Royal Opera since then have been lamentably few. But since 1968 a lot has happened to Carlos. There have been Andrew Porter's uncoverings in Paris of passages cut before the first performance in 1867, moves to re-establish Carlos as a grand opera composed to suit the French taste, counter-moves to prove that the work is really *Don Carlo* and a truly Italian opera as Verdi later revised it. Certainly when Covent Garden tried to revive it as a French opera, sung in that language with an indifferent cast while using Verdi's esteemed but very Italian production, not so long ago the result was total disaster.

The one proven element is that *Carlos* in French - long, dramatically complex and majestic - demands a cast of the first order. In Italian lesser singers can carry the day in the four-act version. The catch is that French-speaking singers of the right calibre are simply not to hand. Not one is included, even in the supporting roles, in Claudio Abbado's recording of *Don Carlos*, otherwise French to the core in language and version, right down to those excruciating which are included in an appendix. There will doubtless be complaints about the handling of language - with Valentini (Ricciarelli) and Domingo (Nucci) and Raimondi (Philippe II) surprisingly as the main culprits - but here at last in *Le Test Carlos*.

Deutsche Grammophon has had little difficulty in picking out the stars of this important and resplendent set: Domingo, slightly haggard, on the box of the CD and Abbado very much in command on the cover of the libretto. The French version puts Carlos himself back at the centre of the opera, from which he can easily be pushed out if his Act I *Romanes* and the encounter with Elisabeth in the Forest of Fontainebleau is cut.

Moreover, the first Carlos, was generally reckoned a flop: Domingo, reluctant of voice, is anything but that. His scenes with Elisabeth - Abbado here as in the recent Rossini *Viaggio* is capable of coaxing Ricciarelli into her best voice - have a passion which may not exactly



In command: Claudio Abbado (top) and Placido Domingo, the leading lights in Don Carlos

correspond with the weakling Carlos of history but certainly goes hand in hand with the music.

There have been more impressive Fossas than Leo Nucci, but the voice is generous in every term of the world: this Rodrigo is willing to let Carlos take centre stage. Roggero Raimondi's Philippe digs deep into the King's sorrow, emphasizing that this is an opera about grief, the most important of which is that between the ruler of Spain and his son. The basses of the Grand Inquisitor and the equally enigmatic Monk are well contrasted by Nicolai Ghiaurov and Nikolai Staroforov - Eastern Europe still seems to be top choice when casting doom-laden preludes.

The controlling force of the set itself remains Claudio Abbado. He obviously enjoys the majesty of *Don Carlos*, its dark corners in the midst of public pomp, its tragic roundabout of love and, perhaps most of all, the way Verdi could not only meet the French formula but surpass it.

John Higgins

Parsifal legend by Strauss - the kitsch version

In one of the many episodes from the Parsifal legend that Wagner did not use, the hero undergoes a change of sex during his wanderings and, as Flipsara, conceives a child by the young Tristan: hence *Guntram*, the subject of Richard Strauss's first opera. This has been neglected since its first performance in 1894, and has only now been recorded for the first time as part of the multivolume rescue attempts undertaken by Eve Queler.

Strauss's attitude to Wagner was profoundly ambiguous. As a young man he had confessed himself totally bored by *Siegfried*, but 10 years later he was composing this most thoroughly Wagnerian work. One might speak of a simple conversion, were it not that Strauss's view of Wagnerism is so literal that nine-tenths of the time it amounts to parody.

Strauss: *Guntram* Goldberg/Solyom-Nagy/Gregor, Hungarian Army Chorus, Hungarian State Orchest/Casler.
CBS 12 M 35787 (two black discs)
Baker/Masterson/Bowman/Jones/Tomlinson.
Hemdel: Julius Cramer
ENO/Mackerras, EMI EX 2702222 (three black discs)

The prelude to *Guntram* aptly summons the atmosphere of *Parsifal* or *Lohengrin* until the moment comes for a theme: at that point Strauss proves himself quite unable to come up with an "Ur-motif" of Wagner's irresistible force.

Another signal of the gulf between the two composers is in the matter of time scale. The whole of *Guntram* lasts for considerably less than the first act of *Götterdämmerung*, but seems twice as long. Strauss,

imitating Wagner in this as well, writes his own words, but has neither the psychological understanding nor the dramatic gift to create a play of long breath.

Recognizing that defect, he inevitably falls back on Wagnerian models when the going gets rough: *Guntram* and *Freihild*, for instance, rehearse their love in terms that would be familiar to Tristan and Isolde. As the hero ludicrously confides to his beloved at one point: "I am not what I appear to be: a high goal dictates my disguise."

One may still wonder, though, whether the high goal was that of imitating Wagner or sending him up. The plot is a mess of *Tannhäuser*, *Lohengrin*, *Tristan* and *Parsifal*, in which the minor stranger *Guntram* arrives at the court of the tyrant Duke Robert, sings of peace, kills the duke, has a rapturous duet with his widow

(Freihild), is called to the duty of expiation, rejects it but then abruptly accepts it after all, leaving Freihild without either husband or lover.

What Strauss in fact achieved was something so awful that one would long to see it on the stage, were it not that the absurdities of *Guntram* have already been perpetrated by producers who thought they were staging Wagner. The recording, in any event, will do.

Reiner Goldberg as *Guntram* is in worrying form, but what he has to say and sing is so terrible that anybody would sound like a caricature Heidentenor. The rest of the cast are Hungarian, and range from the adequate to the very fine. That the thing is a must for admirers of kitsch goes without saying.

Others, meanwhile, may be well satisfied with Sir Charles Mackerras's new recording of

Handel's *Gaëlle Cesare*, which comes in the line of English National Opera productions recorded in association with the Peter Moores Foundation.

The main point would seem to have been to monumentalize Dame Janet Baker's already monumental performance as *Cesare*, but she by no means outshines other members of a fine cast that includes Valerie Masterson as a bright, chirruping Cleopatra, James Bowman as an effete, surly Ptolemy, Della Jones as a delectable Sextus and John Tomlinson forthright as the Egyptian general Achillas.

Sir Charles constantly shows how heroic and grand passion can be fresh and lovely, while the recording in English provides the kind of big-gestured drama that is not so easy to present on stage.

Paul Griffiths



Separated by a great gulf: Richard Morrison (above) parodying Richard Wagner



DRINK

Aristocrat of Italian wine

His office is in the majestic, 15th-century Florentine Palazzo Antinori in the Piazza Antinori and Marchese Piero Antinori is everything you would expect an Italian nobleman to be: cultured, elegant and clever. He is also one of Italy's most knowledgeable and enterprising wine men. At times during the past turbulent decade of Italy's vinous history it has seemed that Piero Antinori has almost singlehandedly been striving for quality and progress.

Such determination is perhaps not surprising because this year Antinori celebrates 600 years in wine. An unbroken chain of more than 20 generations of the family have been involved.

Few Antinoris, however, have experienced the dramatic upheavals that Marchese Piero has had to face. He is fond of describing Italy's tortuous evolution from a rustic, traditional producer to a more modern winemaking force as "the new



Marchese Piero Antinori

renaissance of Italian wines". Although several of his new wave wines use foreign grape varieties, he is against their excessive use, observing wisely that this way Italian wines risk losing their identity.

He feels that Italy's future lies in "rediscovering the ancient traditions and the old noble

Italian grapes". By this he means that more work should be done in the vineyard selecting the finest strains of Italian grapes and encouraging farmers to plant them and to keep yields down and quality up. He does admit, however, that apart from the Nebbiolo and Sangiovese grapes, Italy's real handicap now is a lack of noble grape varieties.

Unlike other Italian wine authorities, Marchese Piero Antinori thinks that the recently introduced superior quality DOCG, or *denominazione di origine controllata garantita*, is a "big improvement" on previous legislation. He believes that the testing test, lower yields, smaller proportion of white grapes and higher proportion of foreign grapes allowed can only raise the quality of Chianti.

Many of Antinori's own wines are already truly world class. One is Sassicaia, made entirely from the Cabernet Sauvignon grape grown at the estate of Incisa della Rocchetta, a relative of the Antinori family, at Bolgheri on the Tuscan coast. What separates it from other Italian reds is its sheer overpowering class and finesse. Most vintages are blessed with a massive purple colour plus enormous richness, seductive cassia-like smell and taste that needs time to reveal its full Cabernet charms (Harrods carry the 1978 vintage for £15).

Tignanello is more Italian in style, produced from Chianti's traditional Sangiovese grape rounded off with about 20 per cent or so of Cabernet Sauvignon, and aged in small oak casks for about two years. Tignanello, like Sassicaia, is built to last and needs at least 10 years' ageing before it matures into a rich, beefy truffle mouthful (Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, carry the '81 for £7.11).

A less expensive wine from the same estate is Antinori's delicious Santa Cristina 1983 Chianti Classico, very good value at just £2.48 from Belloni's Delicatessen, 53 Charlotte Street, London W1. Another good Antinori buy is Villa Antinori's rich beefy 1980 Chianti Classico Riserva (Sainsbury's, £3.70; Corney & Barrow, £3.91).

Finally, do try Antinori's special Secentenario anniversary wine. Its deep purple colour, plummy nose and glorious rich, velvety taste is produced only in magnums (Corney & Barrow £28.75).

Jane MacQuitty

EATING OUT

Try a turbot-charged diet

The health craze has encouraged a boom in fish restaurants, reports Stan Hey

Those of us brought up to expect fish on Fridays only are having to rethink our eating habits. Has the catering industry gone religious and extended the Roman Catholic Church's traditional insistence on "fish on Fridays" to cover the rest of the week or is the vegetarian cause making more impact than we imagine?

Whatever the reason, the strongest trend in the business at the moment is towards fish restaurants. It seems that the diet and weight conscious are turning from scales in the bathroom to scales on the plate.

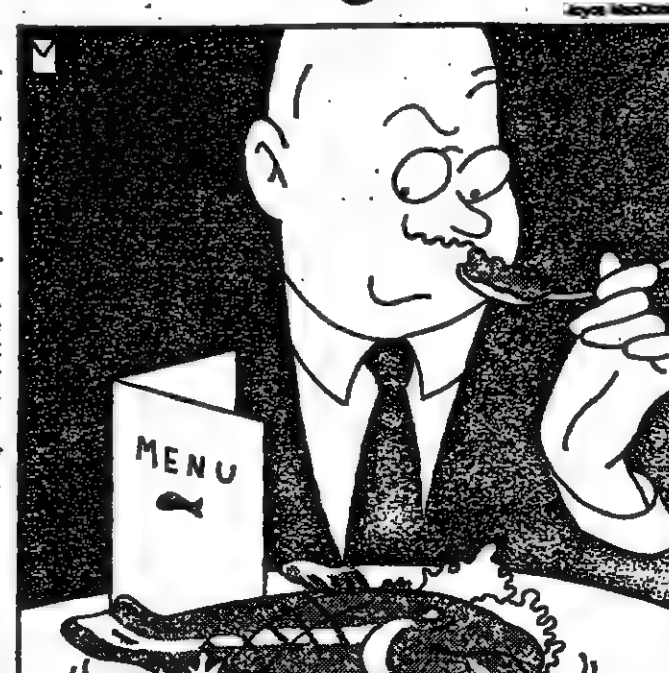
One of the most notable commitments to the piscatorial faith has been made by the Amis du Vin group, whose wine warehouse, gourmet shop and Covent Garden restaurant have been augmented by Café Fish des Amis du Vin, in the heart of the West End.

The rather artless name may give a false impression of an operation which seems thorough, attractive and highly skilled. The premises are light, airy and spacious, with plain fittings and trimmings; the menu offers a comprehensive range, cooked simply in a variety of ways, but with little flourish here and there.

Turbot may be baked with a butter and chive sauce, or poached and served with hollandaise, while sea-bass is baked on a bed of fennel sticks. More rugged specimens, such as red mullet or sandies, are grilled, with herbs and anchovy butter or chopped tomato and garlic, respectively.

The menu also steers a clever course between the continental (brochets of monkfish, marinated in lemon and dill) and the traditional British (deep-fried cod, poached salmon). Most main courses are priced between £4.50 and £6.95, and include the solitary starter, a pleasant fish pâté. This device is designed to ensure that the fish dishes which follow are freshly cooked and served at the correct time.

There is a pleasant range of French desserts to round off the meal and the Amis du Vin live up to their name with a well-chosen list of white wines, categorized by grade variety.



The Robert Mondavi Fumé Blanc, from California's Napa Valley, is a particular treat. Downstairs the wine bar, offering oysters, mussels, seafood casseroles and fish snacks, completes a splendid operation.

A good deal of thought and effort has also gone into the launching of San Francisco Steampunk just south of the river in Putney High Street. The owners - two Americans and a Welshman - have expanded on the success of Thirty-Four Sausage Street, their Croydon fish restaurant, by offering here a Californian-style combination menu of fish pasta.

The natural plainness of seafood is an excuse to run riot with sauces

The novelty at Steampunk - this refers to the paddle-ship interior rather than the cooking methods - is the variety of fish available, and the charring technique of cooking it. This involves preparing the fish as steaks, marinating and cooking over charcoal.

Firmer-fleshed fish are naturally best suited to this, and Steampunk go to great lengths to fly in such exotics as mahi-mahi barracuda, capitaine blanc and sail-fish from the Caribbean and Indian oceans. The mahi-mahi - described on the menu as "medium flavour, moist, flaky" - had a stronger texture than "flaky" but was enjoyable and flavourful nevertheless.

Palates requiring more stimulation might prefer seafood lasagne with prawn sauce, or the

pungent supreme of turbot on a leek purée with vanilla sauce (£7.25). The Californian "theme" embraces service of the "Have a nice day" school.

While the previous two restaurants emphasize the simplicity required when handling most fish, there are also places where the natural plainness of seafood is an excuse to run riot with the sauces. If this is to your taste, you may enjoy the ambitious fish dishes on offer at Holland Park's restaurant The Belvedere.

From swimming in the sea, the poor fish end up here in sauces of Noilly Prat, champagne, pastis, old vinegar, lobster and Armagnac, which tend to swamp their taste. It can work, as an excellent feuilleté of seafood in a herb butter sauce proved, but eating here can be an over-rich experience in every sense - it is around £25 a head which includes the wonderful garden setting.

FOOD NOTES

Café Fish des Amis du Vin, 39 Putney Street, London SW1 (01-930 3989). Open: Mon-Sat, 11.30am-midnight.

San Francisco Steampunk, 32 Putney High Street, London SW15 (01-788 1900). Open: Mon-Fri, noon-2.45pm and Mon-Sat, 7-10.45pm.

Thirty-Four Sausage Street, 34 Sausage Street, Croydon, Surrey (01-686 0586). Open: Mon-Fri, noon-2.45pm and Mon-Sat, 7-10.45pm. The Belvedere, Holland House, Abbotshury Road, London W8 (01-602 1238). Open: Mon-Sat noon-3pm and 6.30-10.30pm.

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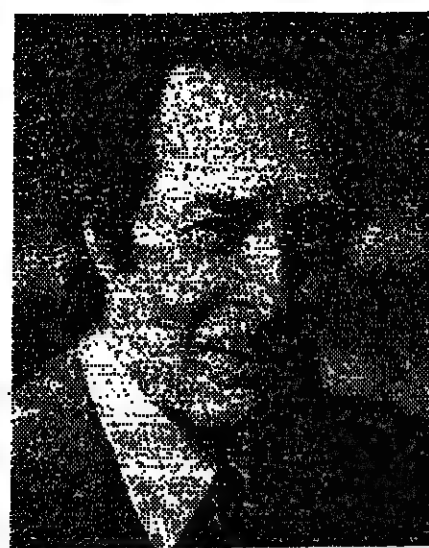
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THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE
STAR WARS: Susanah York plays a film star pestered by a crank in *Fatal Attraction*, the first thriller by Bernard Slade, a writer known mainly for comedies like *Same Time Next Year* (currently at the Old Vic). Denis Quilley is the policeman. Haymarket Theatre (01-930 9832). Previews from Wed, opens Nov 26.



CONCERTS
BATON CHARGE: Carlo Maria Giulini, the veteran Italian maestro, makes two appearances with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Tomorrow he conducts Bach's Mass in B Minor and on Thursday Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Violin Concerto and Fifth Symphony. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191).



FILMS
JUGGED HARE: Meryl Streep as the English woman progressing from wartime derring-do to sexual and social frustration in the 1950s in *Plenty* (15), adapted from the play by David Hare, with Tracey Ullman and Charles Dance. From Friday at ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 0861) and ABC Fulham Road (01-370 0265).



BOOKS
POET'S DIARY: Stephen Spender ranges from his politically committed youth to the present day in *Journals 1939-1983* (Faber, £15), setting out a candid record of his friendship with Auden, Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Hockney and others, as well as his thoughts on literature and the creative process.



TELEVISION
HAYES FEVER: Patricia Hayes, so often the comic relief, turns to straight acting in *Mrs Capper's Birthday*, adapted from the Noel Coward short story by Jack Rosenthal. She plays a widow who is still sustained by the companionship of her husband though he has been dead for 30 years. BBC1, tomorrow, 9.10-10.10pm.



JAZZ
WATTS NEWS: Charlie Watts, the Rolling Stones' drummer, leads more than 30 of Britain's top jazz soloists for a week at Ronnie Scott's. The menu includes such classics of the big-band repertoire as "Mooning" and "One O'Clock Jump". Ronnie Scott's, 47 Fith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747). Mon-Nov 23.

THE TIMES CHOICE

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

DOWN AN ALLEY FILLED WITH CATS: Australian play said to be "rich in betrayal, deceit and



suspense". With Adam Faith (above) and David de Keyser. Mermid (01-235 5568). Previews Thurs, Fri, Nov 23, 25-26. Opens Nov 27.

OPENINGS

ADAPT OR DYEL: Pieter-Dirk Uys brings his one-man, 23-character satirical show from South Africa to London for a short late-night run. Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 (01-328 9626). Tomorrow at 8pm; Mon-Fri and Nov 23 at 11pm.

INTERPRETERS: Peter Yates directs a new play by Ronald Harwood about a group of Russians on a visit to London. Maggie Smith, Edward Fox, John Moffat, Doreen Mantle, Jeffery Wickham, Dan Meaden. Queens (01-734 1169). Previews today, Mon. Opens Tues.

KING LEAR: As seen and acclaimed at this year's Edinburgh Festival, Kick Theatre's production using the uncut quarto text, directed by Deborah Warner. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London N1 (01-359 4404). Previews Tues, Opens Wed.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE: Glyn Robbins' adaptation of C.S. Lewis's story for children returns to London for the Christmas season. Westminster (01-834 0283). Opens Wed (matinee).

MADE IN ENGLAND: First play by Rodney Clark, directed by Sebastian Borm, is a serio-comic look at a small British company's attempt to get a new invention manufactured by a Japanese company. Soho Poly Theatre, 16 Riding House Street, London W1 (01-636 9050). Previews Tues-Thurs. Opens Fri.

OURSELVES ALONE: Anne Devlin's play examines the lives of three women in Andersonstown, Belfast. Simon Curtis directs. Brian Brennan, Peter Chelms, Adrian Dunbar, John Hewitt, Mark Lambert, Lisa-Anne McLaughlin, Hilary Reynolds and Liam de Silva. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (01-730 1745). Previews Wed. Opens Thurs.

STRAIGHT LINES: A community musical, presented by the New Theatre and The Puppet Tree, involving local people in a tale of 200 years of this area's history, particularly the railways. Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 1394). Opens Wed, until Nov 23.

SELECTED

THE GRACE OF MARY TRAVESE: Janet McTeer as the wise virgin abroad in Georgian

London leads an impressive cast including Harold Innocent, Eve Matheson and James Smith. Royal Court (01-730 1745).

GUYS AND DOLLS: Lulu is absolutely right for the role of Miss Adelaide in the National Theatre's exuberant revival, with strong support from Norman Rossington, Clarke Peters, Betsy Brandley, Prince of Wales (01-930 6661).

MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION: Joan Plowright as the warm-hearted madam and Jessica Turner as her rebellious daughter lead in Anthony Page's production. Lyttelton (01-928 2252).

PRAYDO: David Hare and Howard Brenton's near-the-judicial account of the rise of a ruthless colonial newspaper magnate provides Anthony Hopkins with a gem of a role. Olivier (01-928 2252).

OUT OF TOWN

BELFAST: Minstrel Boys: A crack company headed by Mark Mulholland and Louis Rolston sparkle in Martin Lynch's new tragedy about confining Republican loyalties. Lyric Players (0232 680081). Animal Farm: National Theatre on tour in Peter Hall's adaptation of George Orwell's parable, with songs by Adrian Mitchell and Richard Baines. Grand Opera House (0232 241919). Opens Mon.

BIRMINGHAM: Mamma Decembre: Temba Theatre Company in a study of a West Indian woman who finds herself widowed, deserted by her children and jobless in present-day England. Alby James directs. Birmingham Repertory Studio (021 255 4455).

DORCHESTER: Entertaining Stranger: David Edgar has written this "epic play" for and about this Dorset town and its inhabitants. 1824-74, to be presented as a community play, directed by Ann Jellicoe. St Mary's Church, Edward Road (0395 62298). Opens Mon.

LEICESTER: The Paloma Game: Paul Jones, Fiona Hendley, lead in Mike Ockrent's new production of the musical by Rice, Bessie, George Abbott, Jerry Ross and Richard Adler, including such songs as "Hey There!", "Bernando's Hideaway" and "Steam Heat". A national tour is planned. Haymarket (0333 538797). Previews from Thurs. Opens Nov 25.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA: Another revival this week: Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* on Fri at 7.30pm. John Mauceri, one of the finest conductors, takes the baton for all performances. Alain Fordary makes his Royal Opera debut as Jack Rance, with Mara Campari as Minnie. Tonight and Thurs at 7pm. H.M.S. Opera continues its run with Sir Charles Mackerras conducting a cast led by Yvonne Kenny. Performances may be cancelled because of an industrial dispute. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086).

OPERA 80: In Blackpool tonight Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. On Tues Buxton: Carle with Don Giovanni on Fri and the take on Nov 23. All at 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Pick of the week is Janáček's *Katja Kabanova* on Nov 23 at 7.30pm with Elena Hannea in the title role of a production restaged by Dag

Pountney and conducted by Simon Rattle. The Gerald Scarle-designed *Orpheus in the Underworld* is tonight and on Wed at 7.30pm, now with Terry Jenkins and Lilian Watson. Also Gounod's *Faust* (Thurs at 7pm), with Arthur Davies, Helen Field and John Tomlinson. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-336 3161).

SADLER'S WELLS OPERA: Last performances of a very worthwhile *Merry Widow* this afternoon (2.30pm) and evening (7.30pm) and also on Mon and Fri at 7.30pm. A handsome *La traviata*, with Elizabeth Collier and Kim Begley on Wed and Nov 23 at 7.30pm and the last playings of *HMS Pinafore* on Tues and Thurs at 7.30pm. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC2 (01-278 8156).

ROYAL ACADEMY: A college renowned for excellent student productions present what they claim to be the first British staging of Rameau's *Les Boréades* on Thurs and Fri this week at 7pm. Roger Norrington conducts and Stephen Lawless directs. Sir Jack Lyons Theatre, Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1 (01-935 5481).

GOING SOLO: An enterprising evening of Milhaud's *Cocotte* one-act, *The Poor Sailor* and Martinu's *Comedy on the Bridge* is offered by SOLO (Students of London Opera), undergraduates and postgraduates of the Guildhall and Goldsmiths. Performances on Tues, Wed and Thurs at 8pm. Manning Hall, University of London Students' Union, Malet Street, WC1 (01-539 3078).

FILMS

OPENINGS

MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE (15): A young Asian hopeful is put in charge of his uncle's laundrette. A lively portrait of Mrs Thatcher's Britain from the young writer Hanif Kureishi, garishly directed by Stephen Frears, with Gordon Warlock, Daniel Day-Lewis. Screen on the Hill (01-485 3366). Metro (01-437 0767). From today.

COLONEL REDL (15): István Szabó, the director of *Mephisto*, returns with an impressive epic drama about the bisexual military officer of the Austro-Hungarian empire - also the subject of Osborne's play *A Patriot for Me*. With Klaus Maria Brandauer. Cannon Film Centre, formerly Scene, Swiss Centre (01-437 2086). From Fri.



WHEN FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS (15): This year's Cannes prizewinner - a delightful, ironic portrait of post-war life in Yugoslavia, seen through the beady eyes of a six-year-old boy, Malik (Moreno de Bartoli) seen here with his uncle (Mustafa Nadarevic). Directed by Emir Kusturica. Cannon Film Centre (01-437 2086). From Fri.

SELECTED

LETTER TO BREZHNEV (15): Chris Bernard's sprightly low-budget British comedy about two Liverpool women hunting for romance with two Russian sailors. Classic Royal (01-930 6815).

PRIZZI'S HONOUR (15): Two hired killers fall in love - a tangled tale with lots of sly comedy, lovingly directed by John Huston. With Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2771).

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Both performances at Covent Garden include the last appearances of guest star Elizabeth Platel, in *The Sleeping Beauty* (Mon) partnered by Jonathan Cope, and with her fellow Paris Opera star Charles Jude in the short, spectacular *Corail* (Tue) as part of a bill. Also *The Two Pigeons* and *divertissements* by Ashton (Wed). Covent Garden (01-240 1086).

FESTIVAL BALLET: This week's performances at Bristol offer the last chance before next spring to see Ashton's *Romeo and Juliet* (Mon-Thurs) and the new productions of *La Bayadère* and *Aurore* (Fri and Nov 23). Bristol Hippodrome (0272 24888).

DANCE UMBRELLA: Tonight the French group, L'Esquisse, at the Almeida, Islington. Next week at Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, two American programmes: Risa Jarooski (new to London) with her company, Tusa, Wed; and the high-powered Karle Armitage with Joseph Lennon, Fri and Nov 23. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London N1 (01-359 4404); Riverside Studios (01-748 3364).

GALLERIES

THE HUMAN STORY: Billed as "an exhibition that took 35 million years to put on", it charts the evolution of man up to the present day and beyond. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-502 0702). From Thurs.

INTRODUCING SAM RABIN: Paintings by an artist/teacher now 82 years old, whose career has included winning a medal at the Olympics and playing Mendoza in Korda's *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Duxton College Picture Gallery, College Road, London SE21 (01-693 5254). From Thurs.

BOTANICAL WATERCOLOURS: Delicate paintings by an anonymous hand, many of flowers which had just been introduced to England at the time of painting - the late 18th century. *Also Views of Venice: Scenes both renowned (The Grand Canal, San Giorgio Maggiore) and rare.* Spink & Son, King Street, St James's, London SW1 (01-830 7888). From Mon.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WOULD YOU LET YOUR DAUGHTER? Norman Parkinson takes a sentimental look at women acquisitions bought since the sale of his earlier collection to the Getty Museum. Some odd and unusual examples hang alongside many more famous names loaned from the Getty.

Photographers' Gallery, 5 and 6 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01-240 1989). Opens Fri.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

CHRISTMAS AT THE SOUTH BANK: Booking open for concerts with Vera Lynn, Roy Castle, Tim Rice, Cantabile, and David Jacobs (compers Dec 7), and two concerts with the Spinners (Dec 16-17). Plus Emylin Williams as Charles Dickens in a special 80th birthday charity performance with the London Welsh Festival Choir, and a staged performance of Oliver Knussen's *Humor and Songs of Winnie the Pooh*, conducted by the composer. South Bank Concert Halls, London SE1 (01-928 3191; credit cards: 01-928 6800).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Dance: John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch; Films: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

THE ROAD TO MECCA: National Theatre production, written and directed by Athol Fugard, with cast including Yvonne Bryceland, Bob Laker. Opens Dec 16 at Cottesloe Theatre. Postal booking opens Mon.

OLYMPIA INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING: Christmas show the Rags for the Disabled Association, show-jumping classes, agility tests, Shetland pony Graz National, and Jorrock's finale. Dec 2-16. Season tickets available. Olympia Show Jumping, London W14 (01-571 141).

HOLIDAY OFFER 88: Annual ice spectacular a huge cast and lavish production, including *Swan Lake*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Northern Fairy* and finale with music of Glenn Gould and Tommy Dorsey. Jan 22-23. Tickets from £2.50. Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex (01-902 964).

LAST CHANCE

BREAKING THE SILENCE: Stephen Poliakoff's drama about his inventor father's life in revolutionary Russia, with Alan Howard, Gemma Jones, and Jenny Agutter, directed by Ron Daniels. Finishes today, 3pm and 7.30pm. Mermid Theatre, Fiddle Dock, London EC2 (01-236 5568).

SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH: Lauren Bacall stars as an ageing actress hoping to boost her career with an affair with a younger man, in Tennessee Williams's play. Directed by Harold Pinter. Finishes today (matinee and evening). Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (01-930 5652).

RICHARD DEACON/RICHARD ROBERTS: Unusual collaboration between outstanding young sculptor and controversial architect, including Deacon's sculptures on Serpentine lawn. Finishes tomorrow. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-402 6075).

Making the silent movies sing



Carl Davis, film score maestro and workaholic, tells Bryan Appleyard how Napoleon inspired him

A fairly typical suburban scene in Edwardian Barnes - a pair, dogs, Wham! posters and some indeterminate building work in a far corner of the house. It is a standard slice of affluent south-eastern English life except that at its centre is a small, slightly stout New Yorker who pours out music as if it was going out of fashion.

Long haired as befits a maestro and energized by success, Carl Davis is evidently having a whale of a time and occasionally signals that fact by emitting a high-pitched, piercing laugh.

The top floor of the house is his professional home. There are two pianos, one with a video system next to it, shelves full of his own music, a recording system and two silver balloons with the words "25 years in London - it's O.K. - love Carl" printed on the side.

The balloons are the remnants of a party held by Davis to celebrate his quarter century as an Englishman with an American passport.

Davis came here aged 23 with Stephen Viner and a review they had co-written called *Twists*. It had played off-Broadway and they managed to stage it at the Edinburgh Festival and subsequently in the West End.

For the next 25 years he hardly stopped running. Work seemed to fall into his lap and he established himself as probably the master of incidental music for television, films, radio and theatre, working with Jack Gold, Jonathan Miller, Ronald Eyre and Jeremy Isaacs.

"I came here with the notion of improving the standard of film and television music - I felt it could be as good as full classical composition. It seemed to work," he said.

Davis felt England was the best place for the job - the kind of television that was right for his music was made here and the films seemed right. In fact the one thing that could tempt him to go home is American dance but, for the moment, he has no plans.

Yet Davis remained in essence a backroom boy until the television series *Hollywood*. Made with Kevin Brownlow and David Gill, this traced the

history of silent movies and led to a deal with Davis producing a five-hour score for Abel Gance's almost-forgotten silent epic *Napoleon*. The impact of the screening with live performances of the score was immense and the Gill-Brownlow-Davis team now produces at least one fully-scored silent classic a year.

"Suddenly with *Napoleon* I was performing. I was the new element in this whole experience. In silent films the score has to do everything - it's like an opera without voices. It has to tell you what's going on and what people are thinking; you tend to write a far more complete piece of music than you would for a sound film. It made me more of a total composer. I really felt I was breaking new ground."

At the demands of conducting are threatening to reduce his composing time - especially since, as a natural free lance with his VAT number pinned prominently on his wall, he finds it hard to turn down work. What he now wants is a regular conducting role with a London orchestra.

"I wanna home," he explains slightly plaintively. "My working day and my working life has been stretched because people want me. If I had a regular slot in London I could plan things. I don't take that into account at all. It's just that I want to be able to say 'I'll do a couple of Beethoven symphonies this year and to be able to do them.'"

It would mean his career coming full circle, since he left a promising start as a young conductor in New York, and it would return him neatly back

ARTS DIARY

Comic cuts, short runs

Not too many laughs at the Theatre of Comedy just now. The actors' collective, which includes Donald Sinden, Richard Briers, Maureen Lipman and Liz Goddard, are apparently less than happy with the number of farces written by their founder, Ray Cooney, which have been staged since their foundation three years ago. Now Cooney is resigning as artistic director of the T.C.C. and a season of uncomic Cheeky will be played in due course. Cooney unrepentantly points out that his farces - *Chase Mr Connors*, *Move Over Mrs Arkham*, *Not Now Darling* - make money and tide the company over the occasional flop. "The impression that 30 of my colleagues are chasing me down corridors is quite wrong," he says. "No one is pushing me to go." However, a new artistic director is to be found while Cooney will go back to his first love, writing.

Bubbly opera

Arts Minister Richard Luce's sudden spurt of generosity in increasing arts grants this week is welcome but, as usual, won't go far. However, at the Royal Academy of Music there's a hunt on everyone's lips. The principal, Sir David Lumsden, has got Pommery Champagne to sponsor the forthcoming production of Rameau's opera *Les Boréades*. Pommery are stumping up not only the money, but also the odd champagne reception to go with the performances. The champagne-and-cash deal is the first of its kind in the country.

David Hockney has spent the past two months commuting between his Los Angeles home and Paris, where he has been putting together the Christmas edition of *French Vogue*. Hockney follows in a long tradition of seasonal guest editors including Chagall, Dali, Miro and Zeffirelli, but with typical energy he has created 40 pages of original work to be included in the magazine. So astonished are the French publishers by this unexpected art gallery to display the work and are giving Hockney a party as well as his fee.

Grave elegy

This afternoon the Church finally forgives D. H. Lawrence and his rudery: a commemorative plaque celebrating the centenary of his birth will be unveiled at Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. What Lawrence would have made of rubbing shoulders with Byron, Wordsworth and Coleridge one can only speculate but, by



Wordsworth and Lawrence agreement between the Dean of Westminster and the D. H. Lawrence Society, none of his riper prose or poetry will be read; instead a demure poem and an uncontroverted extract from *Sons and Lovers* will have to suffice.

No joke

My story about Jesse Norman's failure to appreciate the wit of Terry Wogan and the letter her solicitors sent to the BBC (Arts Diary, October 5) has had its repercussions. I now learn that unnoticed by my TV-watching contacts, the irrepressible Wogan had jokingly referred to "drink" earlier in his interview with the diva and it was this, combined with his ungallant parting shot - "That's Jesse falling over" - as a scenery prop was heard to crash backstage, which prompted her solicitors' letter. It seems therefore that there were grounds for finger-wagging at Wogan although neither he, nor I, would ever dream of questioning Miss Norman's stability or temperance. My apologies to Miss Norman for suggesting her complaint was unwarranted.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Allied's mild response to Elders' bitter jibes

Allied-Lyons yesterday offered a mild response to the bitter jibes Elders DXL has been making about "tired" and "worn-out" brands and an "antiquated" and "stifling" management structure. The nearest thing to a punch was Sir Derrick Holden-Brown's dismissal of Elders' understanding of Allied and international business generally as "superficial and flimsy".

In advance of Elders' formal offer document, which is expected on Monday, Allied has done little more than put up its fists and envoke the Marquess of Queensberry, but Allied cannot be under any illusion that this contest will be played according to Australian rules.

In due course, Allied will have to give at least as good as it gets if it is to survive a carefully constructed and well-timed bid by an ambitious team. The team's leader, John Elliott, has already proved - admittedly on a much smaller scale and on his home, Australian ground - that his tactics are capable of winning.

Elders' indicated opening price of 255p a share should not present Allied with too many problems. The current market price is 286p and it is now accepted that Allied, on its own performance, is worth at least that and, on promise, a good deal more.

The Elders bid, however, is about more than price, although price, in the absence of government intervention, is the final arbiter: there is a level at which even the most determined, defending board has to say to shareholders "take it". These issues include:

- 1 The different attitudes and obstacles to foreign bids in this country and Australia.
- 2 The big discrepancy in size between Elders and Allied - a standard measure against a treble.
- 3 The role of banks, all of them in this instance overseas banks, in financing a bid with loans that are effectively secured on the assets of the company that is bid for.
- 4 The uncertainty, which has an immediate enfeebling effect on management and morale lower down the scale in the bid-for company, of the bidder's stated intention to carve up the group and sell the parts it has to in order to repay the banks. These are strong arguments against dismembering Allied-Lyons, not least the potential loss of significant and successful British investments in the United States (Baskin-Robbins, DCA and Tetley Inc).

5 The ownership of DXL plc, the vehicle Elders has set up to make the bid for Allied: the eight leading banks have 58 per cent; the other 42 per cent is 49 per cent owned by Elders and 51 per cent by the Monaco Australians Richard Weisner and Bob Cowper. The offer document may show some tidying of the complicated DXL structure and Elders' option agreements over the shares, but DXL will still be hard to fathom.

In different degrees, these issues have a significance for business in this country beyond the fate of Allied-Lyons. They will form part of the argument and counter-argument between Elders and Allied but the dispassionate critical scrutiny they deserve is a job for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Blenheim boost for Euronotes

The latest event in the distinguished history of Blenheim Palace was yesterday's gathering of bankers and borrowers to sign a \$670 million Euronote facility for News Corporation, the media group which includes Times Newspapers, the Sun and News of the World. The issue, a relatively large one for an international corporation, is further evidence of the roaring development of the Euronote market in recent months.

In 1981, Euronote facilities totalled less than \$1 billion. By 1983, the figure had crept up to around \$4 billion and then the market took off. Last year, the size of facilities shot up to \$20 billion and by

September this year it was touching \$32 billion. Out of this total the amount of paper actually outstanding was in the region of \$13 billion.

The reason for the market's popularity is not hard to understand. For borrowers the money is remarkably cheap. Euronotes are short-term instruments varying between seven days and one year; the popular maturities tend to be up to six months. On such short maturities the fees charged by the banks are around 0.25 per cent less than on a conventional medium-term syndicated loan. The borrower is also likely to be paying a rate of interest little more than the London Interbank Bid Rate, or even slightly less.

That is not as unattractive a rate to lenders as it might seem. The deteriorating credit worthiness of banks in recent years has increased the flow of deposits to the higher quality banks, forcing down their deposit rates in the process.

Sovereign borrowers made up a large part of the market when it took off in 1984, but as the idea of Euronotes caught on, the composition of the market has changed. While sovereign borrowers took around \$9 billion (nearly half the market) last year, their share this year has been dwarfed by issues from corporate borrowers.

This development has been matched by a move in recent months among the banks who arrange the issues.

Until this year most of the banks operating in the market made their money from two sets of fees: those derived from acting as market makers for the paper issued and those from the long term standby facility attached to note issues by which the banks step in with the money if, for some reason, the borrower becomes unable to issue its own paper.

Increasingly banks are specialising in the dealing or the standby side of the arrangement, with the market making becoming concentrated in the hands of a small number of international banks like Citicorp. A much larger group of banks prefer to limit their involvement to the long term standby element. This counts towards the off-balance sheet risks which are now causing central bankers such headaches.

Chill winds of reality over N Sea prices

North Sea oil prices are now back above the \$30 a barrel mark for the first time for almost two years. Customers are being threatened with a rise in petrol prices and home heating oil, just as they need it to fight off the winter.

At the same time the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are suffering from the chill winds of reality and are planning to meet in Geneva on December 7, with most of the oil ministers expecting to have to accept a cut in their official oil price. Some of them, including Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister and Dr Subroto, the Indonesian minister and Opec president are on record as saying that they expect the price to fall to below \$20.

The reason for this confused picture is that the \$30 barrels are actual "wet" barrels, oil which is readily available and can be in the European and North American refineries within days for conversion into the products that the consumer is now demanding. Most Opec oil is still coming through the pipelines and could take six weeks to arrive at the refineries.

Opec is as much aware of the problems that a fluctuating dollar does to its oil revenues as it does to Britain. Therefore, the next Opec meeting will again consider the possibility of moving oil prices away from the dollar to a basket of currencies. The matter is on the agenda, but whether that point on the agenda will be reached will depend on the temperature of the meeting.

Matthews calls it a day at Trafalgar

Trafalgar House confirmed yesterday that Lord Matthews, the deputy chairman, will not stand for re-election as a director at the forthcoming annual meeting.

Lord Matthews said: "Following the takeover of Fleet Holdings (by United Newspapers), I have decided to retire. "Although I have received a number of other offers, I have

decided to take things easier. I will be making Jersey my retirement home."

Lord Matthews, already in Jersey where he has exchanged contracts for his new home, added last night: "I am looking forward to retirement. I suppose there is a little sadness, but I came to the conclusion. This is the time to bow out - do it while you are at the top."

"I may do something in a modest way. I do not want to stagnate. I will have to see."

The two men, whose partnership has been one of the most successful the City has seen, met when Lord Matthews' building company carried out construction and conversion work for Sir Nigel's property business.

Inflation rate of 5.4 per cent is lowest since January

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The rate of inflation fell to 5.4 per cent last month, the lowest since January, because of lower petrol prices and an easing of the underlying inflation rate. The rate was 5.9 per cent in September.

The retail prices index rose by 0.2 per cent between September and October, from 376.5 to 377.1 (January 1974=100). Over the last six months the rise in the index, excluding seasonal foods, was 1.2 per cent, matching the lowest rate of retail price inflation since the late 1960s.

In October, seasonal food prices rose 0.5 per cent, with increases of 3p a pound on tomatoes, and 0.5-1p a dozen on eggs. Fish prices also rose. There were falls in prices of sprouts, cauliflowers, oranges, carrots and onions.

Women's outerwear rose in price, pushing clothing up by 0.8 per cent but petrol, down by an average 3.2p a gallon, pushed transport costs down by 0.4 per cent. The remaining net, about 15 per cent, of September's mortgage reduction came through in the figures.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General and the Department of Employment's chief spokesman in the Commons, said: "This is the fourth month in succession that the rate of inflation has fallen. I can say, without qualification, that this is good news, and I cannot see how anyone can say otherwise."

The figures are in line with

the Chancellor's autumn statement forecast of a 5.5 per cent fourth quarter rate. The rate of inflation should be around the same or slightly lower this month, with lower petrol prices offset by higher telephone charges and bread, cigarette and coal prices. Last November the retail prices index rose by 0.3 per cent.

However, the rate is likely to

rise next month, because the index fell by 0.1 per cent in December last year.

Next year, the Treasury expects the inflation rate to decline to 3 per cent by September, before perking up slightly to average 3.75 per cent in the fourth quarter.

That slightly odd profile is mainly due to mortgage rates, which the Government blamed for pushing up the rate of inflation to 7 per cent in the spring. Next year, they should be helpful, with the recorded rate of inflation below the underlying rate.

The Treasury is still anxious to exclude mortgage costs from the retail prices index, but it has become clear that this will take a considerable time. The Department of Employment committee looking into the inclusion of mortgage costs in the February's reweightings of the index.

It is not now scheduled to report until the summer, so that 1987 will be the earliest year in which action can be taken on its findings.

US shop sales plunge

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The White House yesterday attempted to allay fears of a sharp slowdown in the US economy after the release of statistics which revealed rising inflation and sluggish growth last month.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said: "The pulse of the nation's growth remains strong and stable. As with most of the other leading indicators, the continued surge upwards of the stock market reflects growing public confidence in an economic picture

that is bright, even at the margins."

The October statistics on industrial production and retail sales were not encouraging, however. Industrial output remained unchanged in October, surprising economists who had expected a big gain.

Retail sales were the most alarming statistic, plunging by 3.3 per cent in October in the steepest decline since the government began reporting the figures in 1967.



Ian MacLaurin: worried about demands on supplies.

Tesco chief warns big stores

By Cliff Feltham

Some big high street retailers were making unfair demands on their suppliers, Mr Ian MacLaurin, the chairman of Tesco, said yesterday.

Mr MacLaurin, addressing 1,000 food executives in London, said he was worried that some retailers "are trying to dictate to manufacturers their production runs and whom that particular manufacturer produces for. I cannot believe that a responsible board of directors would knowingly allow such decisions to be taken."

His remarks were interpreted as referring to some big stores' policies such as instructing suppliers not to call with any other retailers.

A spokesman for the Food Manufacturers' Federation welcomed Mr MacLaurin's comments. "Manufacturers have been very concerned about the situation in retailing for some time. We would like to sit down with retailers and find a solution to certain aspects which we consider undesirable, such as below-cost selling and extended credit. Both sides need to work together in a less combative mood."

Gatt still divided over agenda for new round

By Our City Staff

Officials of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade have failed to agree on proposals for a new round of trade discussions to put to the Gatt annual meeting from November 25-29.

India and Brazil objected strongly to including negotiations about trade in services and new technology in a new round. As a result, Señor Felipe Jaramillo, the Colombian chairman of Gatt, will give his own assessment of the position to the annual meeting.

It is pointed out that the 90 country signatories to Gatt will decide the agenda for a new full round.

Nevertheless, the failure of the recent official sessions, which were started last month, is a reversal for the United States, the European Community and Japan which had hoped the process would speed up agreement on an agenda.

Bank offers £550m to ITC

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

In a decisive attempt to resolve the three-week old tin crisis, Standard Chartered Bank has made the International Tin Council an offer it may find difficult to refuse.

Standard Chartered, with the blessing of the Bank of England, has offered the 22 nation members of the ITC a loan facility of £550 million with which to finance the orderly liquidation of ITC forwards contracts for 62,000 tonnes of tin.

But yesterday at 3pm the ITC adjourned its discussions without comment until Wednesday.

Mr Peter Graham, senior

deputy chairman of Standard Chartered said yesterday: "One of the things we have not got is unlimited time."

Mr Graham explained that Standard Chartered had decided to offer to finance the full value of the ITC's positions, which are due to be settled by January 23 because it was easier for the ITC to deal with one bank. At least 41 banks are creditors of either the ITC, members of the London Metal Exchange, or both.

The facility to run for three years, will require on the ITC's side a 10 per cent margin of physical tin as security and

Sovereign guarantees by ITC members.

Mr Graham pointed out that it was unlikely that Standard Chartered would, in fact, lend the whole £550 million. The tin price would not fall to zero and, if 40,000 tonnes of tin were delivered to the ITC buffer stock, the financing would be around £400 million.

In addition, the group of 16 banks and metal dealers owed £352 million directly by the ITC have left their refinancing plans on the table. They are asking for a 30 per cent tin margin and Government guarantees.

Exco dismisses de Zoete as broker

By William Kay, City Editor

On Wednesday, de Zoete acted for both sides when British & Commonwealth Shipping sold a 22 per cent stake in Exco to the Kuwait Investment Office for \$111 million.

British and Commonwealth sold to the KIO on the basis that it would be long-term holders. But within 24 hours the KIO sold the stake to Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, a Singaporean financier.

Mr Simon de Zoete of de Zoete said: "I cannot comment on Exco's decision. The British & Commonwealth sale was a perfectly normal transaction. Obviously, we were surprised that the KIO sold so quickly, but you cannot place blame with a restriction that the buyer cannot sell when he sees fit."

Mr Matthews has arranged to meet Tan Sri Khoo, in London next week.

IN BRIEF

Home loans at Girobank

National Girobank, the banking arm of the Post Office, is entering the mortgage market next month with a pilot scheme in the North East of England operated from the banks Leeds office.

If the scheme is successful it will be extended nationwide after six months.

This is part of an expansion by Girobank into new areas of retail lending. The bank is planning to offer overdraft facilities soon.

Miquel to leave

Mr Raymond Miquel is to resign as chairman and chief executive of Arthur Bell & Sons, the whisky company, taken over recently by Guinness, the brewers. He will be succeeded as chairman of Bell by Mr Ernest Sauer, chief executive of Guinness, from December 31.

Bellway dips

Bellway, the housebuilder, saw pretax profits fall to £3.3 million in the year to July 31 from £4 million. Sales rose to £52.8 million from £48.5 million. The final dividend is maintained at 4p to make 7p for the year. *Tempos, page 23*

Talks were continuing yesterday between Saatchi & Saatchi, Britain's biggest advertising group, and its takeover target, Grandfield Rork Collins, the privately-owned advertising and public relations company. The two sides hope to reach agreement in the next few weeks.

Beecham talks

Beecham Group yesterday confirmed that it is in discussions over the possible acquisition of Northcliff Thayer, the over-the-counter medicines subsidiary of Revlon, the American cosmetics group.

£11.4m sale

Johnson & Firth Brown, the specialist engineer, is selling for £11.4 million its US subsidiary Cannon-Muskegon and its UK subsidiary Richard Lloyd. Profits before tax for the year to September 30 were estimated at £3.7 million against a previous loss of £4.1 million.

Hanson date

Hanson Trust's offer for SCM Corporation has been extended until next Friday, Sir Gordon White, chairman of its American interests, said yesterday.

Oppenheimer

No.1 IN EUROPE YET AGAIN.

Over the last 12 months the Oppenheimer European Growth Trust has outperformed every other unit trust in its sector.

We have been making this statement for the last three months. The situation has not changed.

Our performance has been consistently good.

The table below summarises the results for this and two of our other top performing funds.

	Increase in value 12 months to 1.11.85*	Position vs. other unit trusts in the same sector
Oppenheimer European	+48.4%	1st
Oppenheimer Pacific	+22.9%	1st
Oppenheimer UK	+44.6%	6th

*figures are offer to bid with net income reinvested 1.11.84 - 1.11.85. Source 'Planned Savings'

Over the same 12 month period Oppenheimer UK Growth and European Growth were both in the top 10 of all UK authorised unit trusts.*

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Revenue relaxes rule on property conversion costs

By Lawrence Lever

The Inland Revenue has relaxed its tough policy towards a number of property development companies, which it began shortly before this year's Budget removed property development from the terms of the Business Expansion Scheme.

The Revenue's new approach emerges from a letter sent to companies intending to convert properties in London and the South of England.

Previously it had insisted that developers spend as much on conversion costs as on the acquisition of a property; otherwise the companies fell foul of provisions in the 1981 Finance Act, which excluded substantial dealings in land from the scheme.

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	1086.1 (+5.0)	RISES:		London:	
FT All Share	682.04 (+4.75)	Johns & Pih Brown	24p +3p	2: \$1.4222 (-0.0038)	
FT Govt Securities	83.02 (+0.09)	New Court Ntl	33p +4p	2: DM 3.7281 (-0.0027)	
FT-SE 100	1403.9 (+12.2)	Viewplan	83p +10p	2: SWFF 3.0554 (-0.0023)	
Bargains	24.545	Jacobs John I	62.50p +6p	2: FF 11.5891 (-0.041)	
Dataseam USM	106.72 (+0.23)	Goldberg A	95p +9p	2: Yen 280.284 (-0.23)	
New York		Mercury Secs	753p +100p	2: Index 79.5 (-0.1)	
Dow Jones	1444.37 (+5.15)	Parker-Knoll A	274p +22p	New York:	
Tokyo		Pict Petroleum	108p +8p	2: \$1.4425	
Nikkei Dow	12637.44 (+47.93)	Cantors A	94p +7p	2: DM 2.6220	
Hong Kong		British Benzol	27p +2p	2: Index 129.3 (+0.2)	
Hang Seng	1736.07 (-9.07)	Im Leisure Grp	97p +7p	2: ECU 0.522389	
Amsterdam Gen	232.5 (+0.8)	Property Trust	7p +0.50p	2: SDR 0.755355	
Sydney: AO	1003.3 (-6.5)	Wagon Finance	98p +7p		
Frankfurt:		Kent (John)	75p +5p		
Commerzbank	1694.0 (-1.4)	Murton Bros	7.50p +0.50p		
Basel:		Berkley Expl	51p +6p		
General	918.91 (-4.92)	Barr & Wai Amd	218p +13p		
Paris: CAC	232.8 (+1.8)	Habk Pres Engg	68p +4p		
		Sumrie Clothng	34p +2p		
		Barr & Wai Amd A	139p +8p		
		Jebsons Drilling	35p +2p		
		Woodhead Jones	35p +2p		
GOLD		FALLS:		INTEREST RATES	
London fixing:		Polly Peck Intl	173p -52p	London:	
am \$324.55pm - \$325.40		Real Time Intl	50p -8p	Bank Rate: 11%	
close \$324.50 - \$325.00		Chif	7p -1p	3-month Interbank 11% - 11%	
\$228.50		Delyn Packaging	108p -13p	3-month eligible bill:	
New York:				buying rate 11% - 11%	
Cornex (Latest) \$324.85				Prime Rate 9.50%	
				Federal Funds 8%	
				3-month Treasury Bills 7.36 - 7.34%	
				30-year bond price 104% - 104%	

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

You must always have your card available when claiming.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Strong performance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 11. Dealings End, Nov 22. Contango Day, Nov 25. Settlement Day, Dec 2.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND

£2,600

Claims required

for

+38 points

WEEKLY DIVIDEND

£20,000

Claims required

for

+130 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Year gain or loss
1	DRAPERY AND STORES	
2	Bentalls	
3	Burton	
4	Combined English	
5	Decca	
6	Meredith (John)	
7	Hepworth (J)	
8	Formisier	
9	Mark & Spencer	
10	Gen SR	
11	Ward White	
12	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
13	Decca	
14	Gen Nicholson	
15	Bentalls	
16	Chemical	
17	Birmingham Mint	
18	Crown House	
19	Booker McConnell	
20	Christie Ltd	
21	Be Steam	
22	Bibby (J)	
23	INDUSTRIALS E-K	
24	Habit Precision	
25	Flaxman	
26	Johnson & FB	
27	Holt Lloyd	
28	Glyved	
29	GRN	
30	Gestamer	
31	Jardine Math	
32	Granada	
33	Gomme	
34	FOODS	
35	Rich Lovell	
36	Sainsbury	
37	Ugole	
38	Kwik Save	
39	Decca	
40	Hazewood Foods	
41	Morrison (W)	
42	Barnes Foods	
43	Matthews (Bernard)	
44	AB Food	

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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

BUILDING AND ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

FINANCE AND LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

CINEMAS AND TV

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

DRAPERY AND STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
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FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

CINEMAS AND TV

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

DRAPERY AND STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS E-K

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

FINANCE AND LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

FINANCE AND LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
11.75	11.75	British Fund	11.75	0.00	10.00	10.00

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
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Edited by Lorna Bourke

FAMILY MONEY 1

13 Opportunities from Midland Bank Unit Trusts

New advantages for regular savers
Exchange your shares at a discount
Attractive monthly income plan

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Midland Bank Unit Trusts

The taxing problem of student finance

COVENANTS

A letter to *The Times* about the inequitable treatment of students who are supported by their parents by a deed of covenant has highlighted an anomaly which has clearly been annoying many parents.

A steady stream of letters shows there is widespread dissatisfaction with the system which penalises those students who receive support in this way - yet want to work during their vacations.

Student deeds of covenant work like this. The parent enters a legally binding agreement with the student offering to make regular payments under a deed of covenant.

The parent is entitled to basic rate tax relief on these payments and provided the student remains a non-taxpayer he or she is able to reclaim the tax relief, deducted at source by the parent, from the Inland Revenue.

In this way, every £100 paid by the parent to the student (who must be over the age of 18) costs the parent only £70 but is worth £100 in the hands of the recipient.

The maximum amount which a parent can covenant is £2,205 for the current tax year - the level of the single person's allowance. If the parent covenants more than this the student becomes liable to tax as the excess becomes taxable, so reducing the student's tax rebate on the covenant.

However, if a parent does covenant the maximum - which many do, as a rising proportion of students are not eligible for a local authority

grant because of the level of parents' earnings - it means there is little or no incentive for the student to look for work during the summer vacation.

However, student local authority grants are not treated as income and are, therefore, not taxable. The student living on a grant can work and pay no tax on those earnings up to the limit of £2,205.

The student being supported by a deed of covenant is in a different position. As soon as combined income from earnings and the covenanted payments reaches £2,205, earnings become taxable. But worse, the earnings will affect the tax rebate which the student could otherwise claim on the covenanted payments at the end of the tax year.

'Students should be treated alike'

Simon Harris, of London, wrote a letter to *The Times* after he discovered that his son Marc, who went to Cambridge this year, would have to pay tax on any money he earned during the Christmas vacation.

"I'm arguing for equity between students. They should all have an equal incentive to work," says Mr Harris. "One or two people have misunderstood and accuse me of asking for more privileges for the middle classes. But I would like to see all students treated alike."

If my son has to pay 30 per cent tax on the sort of money he is likely to earn doing the Christmas post, then it just isn't worth his while doing it."

David Lindsay of Pangbourne, near Reading, whose

daughter is a student at Oxford Polytechnic, believes the parental contribution should be made tax deductible.

The consequent loss to the Exchequer would be minimal as, through the device of the covenant, the parental grant is already very largely set against the student child's personal allowance, but the gain to the students affected who would then be in the same position as other students on state grants, would be enormous," he says.

This system would allow the deduction to go through the normal PAYE or Schedule D tax procedures. At the moment many students suffer because it takes so long to reclaim the tax.

Dr Roy Webster's daughter who is studying home economics at Leeds Polytechnic is still waiting for the full refund on her covenant from last year. She received an interim payment at the end of September on a claim submitted in May and is still awaiting full payment.

In 1983/4, 196,000 students were supported by covenants but there were 375,000 separate pay-outs including all the interim payments.

Dr Webster, of Welwyn Garden City, says: "A reasonable person might imagine that it should be only the tax reclaimed by the student that is set against his personal allowance not the total gross amount. It is certainly a disincentive to a student who might otherwise endeavour to be self-supporting during the vacations."

His daughter worked during the summer vacation and has used up all her personal allowance after taking her covenant into account. "I thought of giving her less but



There is increasing pressure for equality in the grants system

decided it would be better to hand over the right amount and let her take the consequences of working."

The standard rates for students grants for the academic year 1985/6 are £2,165 in London and £1,830 elsewhere - a margin of just £40 and £375, respectively, over the personal allowance.

Stephen Best-Shaw, of Maidstone, whose daughter is studying French and Latin at Exeter University, has discovered that he cannot take out a covenant this year because his daughter has already used up all her personal allowance by working before going to university.

"I will take out a covenant for her next year and the year after. She will have the sense to

realise that although others may keep all they earn while she only gets 70 per cent, it will still be worthwhile working," he says.

Mr Best-Shaw points out another unfairness in the grants system. "While my neighbour lives off inherited capital and

NUS wants parental contribution abolished

his son's grant is based on a low investment income, I live off earned income, taxed before I receive it, and my daughter gets no grant."

There are also parents who buy a more expensive house and increase their mortgage to lower their contribution, and others refuse a £2,000 pay rise

and negotiate for a company car instead which is not taken into account when assessing income for grant purposes.

The National Union of Students encourages the use of covenants. They are campaigning for higher state grants and ideally would like to see the parental contribution abolished.

Many Tory backbenchers including Michael Forsyth, MP for Stirling, would like to see the parental contribution ended, but want it replaced with a loans system. "I was disappointed that there was no mention of it in the Queen's speech," says Mr Forsyth. "The interest on the loans could be made allowable against income tax."

Vivien Goldsmith

The Eagle Star European Trust

A new unit trust investing in a spread of countries throughout Europe

Have you ever thought of Europe as a place to make money? Well, you should, because there's plenty of money to be made.

The total value of all the companies quoted on the European stock exchanges is greater than that of those quoted in London. And, what's more, Europe is the home of many of the world's most powerful and successful companies.



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When you invest in the European Trust, you will be entrusting your money to the experienced hands of Eagle Star's team of full-time professionals - who manage total worldwide assets of more than £5,500 million. They will constantly monitor the performance of the Trust's holdings and take whatever action they believe will produce the best possible return for investors.

Price and yield. Units will be allocated at the "buying" price ruling on the date of receipt of your application. As a guide, the "buying" price of units in this Trust on 11 November 1985 was 55.7p and the estimated gross annual income was 1.7%.

No hidden charges. Initial costs are met by a charge of 5% which, together with a rounding adjustment of up to 1%, is taken into account in the calculation of "buying" and "selling" prices. Normally there is a 6% difference between these prices. Ongoing costs are met by a charge, currently 1% (plus VAT) per year (Trust Deed allows a maximum of 3%), deducted from the Trust's income.

Income. As the aim of this Trust is the maximum possible growth, all income will automatically be reinvested in the Trust on your behalf.

Following the progress of your investment. We will send you a Contract Note within 7 days and a Unit Certificate within 28 days. Both of these will state the number of units you have bought. Unit prices are shown in the Daily Telegraph, The Times and the Financial Times.



The unique "Rainbow" approach

All Eagle Star unit trusts have been colour-coded to tell you the degree of risk - and potential reward - that they carry. For this purpose, we have used the colours of the rainbow as a scale - ranging from violet as the most secure, to red as the most adventurous.

The European Trust, is "Rainbow-rated"...

HIGHER RISK



As with any investment of this nature, the price of units - and the income from them - must be expected to fall from time to time, as well as rise.

You can cash-in or add to your investment at any time

Although you should regard this Trust as a medium to long term holding, you can sell your units whenever you wish.

Of course, if you don't wish to sell all your units, you won't have to. You can simply cash-in what you need, provided that you leave at least £500 or more invested.

Capital gains tax. Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax. Moreover, when you sell your units, you will not have to pay this tax, unless your total realised gains in the tax year exceed the tax-free threshold, which is currently £5,000.

Income tax. Tax at the basic rate is deducted from the Trust's income, before it is reinvested for you by the managers. If you are not liable to basic rate tax, you can reclaim the amount deducted. If you only pay tax at the basic rate, you will have no further tax to pay. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you will have to pay the additional rate of tax on it.

Trustee: Midland Bank Unit Trust Company Limited.

Managers: Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited, Registered Office, 1 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8BE.

Registrar: The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc.

Eagle Star Group

Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited, Eagle Star House, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7LQ. Telephone: 0242 521311

The information contained in this advertisement is based upon Eagle Star's understanding of current law and Inland Revenue practice.



You can also increase your investment (by £200 or more) whenever you wish.

The Trust's objective

The aim of this Trust is to achieve the maximum capital growth from a range of investments, selected from the 2,500 or more companies quoted on the principal exchanges in West Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, France and other Western European countries.

How to invest

The European Trust is available to everyone aged 18 or over. Simply decide how much you wish to invest (minimum £500) - then complete the application form and send it, with your cheque, to Eagle Star Group, (LC43), FREEPOST, Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL53 3BR. No stamp is needed.

YOUR APPLICATION

To: Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited (LC43)
Eagle Star House, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7LQ

We wish to invest £ _____ (minimum £500)
in the Eagle Star European Trust. A cheque made payable to Eagle Star Unit Managers is enclosed.

Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____
Forenames (in full) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

I am/We are over 18 years of age.

If the holdings are to be in joint names, please give full names and addresses of the other joint holders (maximum of 3) on a separate sheet of paper.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Name and address of Financial Adviser (if any) _____

Not available to residents of Eire. T1 68/1

Counting up the cost

CONVEYANCING

With the threat of building societies and banks being able to offer conveyancing services, solicitors are facing increasing pressure to reduce their fees.

Competition inside the legal profession has already caused conveyancing fees to come down on average 30 per cent in the last year. In August the West Midlands Consumer Bureau decided to carry out a survey of solicitors' fees. The results have been published and surprised even the bureau by "the large variation between the charges".

It asked 21 solicitors' firms what they would charge for the conveyancing of a £27,950 second-hand, freehold house which a client was buying with the aid of a 95 per cent building society mortgage.

The most expensive quote was £403.78, given by a firm in Dudley. This quote was £214.78 more than the cheapest figure of £189, offered by a firm in Coventry. Six firms provided quotes of between £240 to £250, but seven of the quoted figures were over £300.

The quotes, however, did include disbursements - the standard charges levied by the Government and local authorities. These amounted to £74.50 - land registry fees £60, a local search fee of £13.50 and a bankruptcy search of £5.1.

A spokeswoman for the Law Society, the solicitors governing body, said: "The variation in fees is what you would expect with market forces governing what solicitors can charge. Set scale fees for conveyancing were abolished in 1972 and our advice is to shop around and get the best quote you can."

If you do shop around and do not mind dealing with our solicitor by post and telephone rather than visiting him personally, there are cheap legal fees to be found all over the country.

Winnal solicitors, Maxwell Cooke and Co, for example, advertise "no frills" conveyancing for £85 plus VAT, plus disbursements, in addition to their usual conveyancing service.

Fees of £135 plus VAT, plus disbursements, whatever the price of the property is being advertised by Charles Rosenberg & Co of Prastwich, Manchester. However, Blakey's, a London firm of solicitors, advertises "free conveyancing", if you require a low-cost endowment mortgage for over £40,000 obtained through the firm. Disbursements such as stamp duty and land registry fees have to be paid for.

The reason they can offer free legal service is because they offset the commission received from the insurance companies against their fees.

The commission earned by solicitors and other intermediaries on insurance policies varies. On a £40,000 endowment policy for a 25-year term for a 40-year old, with a company such as Sun Alliance, the commission would be £474.

The Law Society's rules provide that a solicitor should fully disclose to his client the

receipt of any commission on insurance premiums and may only retain the commission provided the client agrees.

The Law Society says it is up to individual solicitors how they apply these principles but that large amounts of commission should be disclosed and handed over to the client if the client requires it.

With solicitors' fees generally coming down, the non-solicitor conveyancing companies no longer seem so competitive as they were.

However, with any non-solicitor organisation you will have to pay extra fees for your mortgage. Solicitors' quotes normally include acting for your lender.

Should not be the only criteria when choosing a solicitor? Edward Goldsmith, chairman of the Home Buyers Group, an 80-strong network of solicitors, said: "Solicitors must be competitive, but the cheapest is not always the best. If the public use solicitors as the first port of call in the home buying process, instead of the last, they would discover that they offer far more extra charge a whole range of services."

Susan Fieldman

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Income Strategy is edited by Rosemary Burr, who also edits Moneyletter and was the former savings correspondent of the Financial Times. (Allow up to 21 days for delivery.) Available from Rosters Ltd., 80 Welbeck Street, London W1

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For a copy of the Memorandum and an application form phone 01-408 0828 without delay. And remember your subscription must be received by 26th November.

This advertisement only gives brief details of the Fund and is not intended as a summary. Applications to subscribe to the Fund can only be made on the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum. Please note that the tax relief is given because of the higher level of risk associated with investment in unquoted companies.

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هك زامن الدليل

FAMILY MONEY 1/2

Glut of cash boosts prospects for homebuyers

Home loans are freely available, according to the latest survey conducted by Blay's, which publishes a mortgage guide. And latest figures from the Building Societies Association reveal that money has been flowing into the societies' coffers - all of which augurs well for would-be homebuyers.

"All sources report funds freely available with only a handful of building societies - mainly the small ones - restricting funds to existing members," says Blay's. "After a record month for receipts, funds are plentiful enough for some societies to be active in promoting secured or unsecured personal loans for members at competitive rates - among them Bristol & West, Skipton and Northern Rock in conjunction with Chartered Trust."

As a result of the glut of funds, many societies are once again prepared to consider 100 per cent loans - albeit usually at a premium over the basic loan rate, says Blay's.

Wired up to the hot line

For an annual subscription of £7 you can sign up for a new home breakdown service, Home Hotline, which provides what it claims to be immediate access to plumbers, electricians, central heating engineers and gas specialists all over the country.

It has been running as a pilot scheme for the past 12 months to those who took out one of Lombard Continental's Home Repairs insurance policies. And the company claims that demand has encouraged it to market Home Hotline on its own.

"Our research shows that Home Hotline has a strong appeal to home owners as a desirable extra when they are renewing their home insurance. The concept is easy to explain to anyone who has had to get a plumber at two in the morning," commented Robert McCracken, Lombard Continental's marketing manager. Details from Lombard Continental on Tonbridge 582345.

At your service

The National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses has written to remind us that, like accountants, Spicer & Pegler who we mentioned last



Too many people are still going into business without a cat in hell's chance of success, warned Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

Urging the banks and building societies to make sure their staff can advise on loan applications and local training courses, Mr Nicholson says anyone with the guts to strike out on their own should get all the help they need. "That means cash. It means the minimum of red tape. It means sound advice, and it means ready access to training."

week, they offer a legal advice service to members who are subject to tax investigation. Legal advice is one of the many free services available to federation members. More information from the National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses, 32 St Anne Road West, Lytham St Anne, Lancs FY8 1NY. (Tel: 0253 720911).

Claim for injury

If you are one of the 300,000 people injured in road accidents, or the 2,000,000 treated in hospital for injuries caused by an accident in the home, have you thought about compensation? According to Hambro Legal Protection: "Recent research shows that nearly 90 per cent of accident victims recover no damages at all... three quarters of accident victims... never even consider making a claim."

Hambro Legal Protection has a vested interest in highlighting the situation, as it is in the business of insuring you against the cost of fighting an insurance claim. The company has published a booklet entitled *How to cope with a personal*

injury claim, to encourage those reluctant victims to claim the compensation due. It is concise, well written and informative, and if you are one of the three quarters not claiming it may change your mind.

The *How to Cope* series of booklets are free from Hambro Legal Protection (enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope, 5 1/2 by 9 inches), Hambro House, East Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2ON.

Structure for selling

Proposals for a new commission structure on sales of unit trusts have been put forward by one of the leading intermediaries in the unit trust field, John Greener, of Richards Longstaff.

"The present front end charge on unit trusts of approximately 5.5 per cent is too high. I am very much in favour of low load funds. Instead of the unit trust portfolio manager getting 8 per cent initial commission, this should be reduced to 2 per cent. There should also be a small increase in the annual management charge of which the agent should receive 0.3 per cent," explains Mr Greener.

"In practice this would mean that it could take three years for the agent to get the same amount of brokerage as he does now initially. It could be six years before the investor pays more and, in the meantime, he would have the benefit of the extra 2 per cent invested."

Easy to borrow

Getting a loan from the Britannia Building Society should be easier, as it is simplifying all its mortgage application forms. "The time is ripe for a complete overhaul of the system," says Michael Shaw, managing director. Branch managers are to be given more responsibility for loan decision-making, so the man you see behind the desk should be able to give you a more or less instant answer on how much you can borrow, and when it will be available. Britannia also hopes to be able to speed up valuations reports and mortgage offers and will be producing a new booklet on how to get a home loan.

Gold is tops

From Monday, investors in Yorkshire Building Society's Classic Key account will have a new Gold Top withdrawal facility, which gives instant access, penalty free, provided a minimum of £10,000 remains in the account after the withdrawal has been made. Classic Key is one of the few accounts which will compound the interest, paid monthly, within the account. Paying 9.5 per cent, if you allow the interest to roll up within the account, the return rises to 9.92 per cent, basic rate tax paid.

Minimum investment is £500 and

LEAVE OFF, JULIE - WHY SHOULD I WANT A MORTGAGE AROUND MY NECK?



withdrawals leaving less than £10,000 are available at 90 days notice. Details from Yorkshire Building Society, PO Box 86, Yorkshire House, Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 2AU. Tel: Bradford 734822.

Listening to staff

A new scheme for employees of Midland Bank allows them to take a service break of up to five years for pre-school care of children. Midland claims it is the first scheme in the UK that is available to a broad category of staff rather than to highly restricted groups, and is available to all Midland's careers staff.

Staff will be able to return to work following the break, which for women will normally run from the end of maternity leave. The scheme applies to managers, appointed officers, management trainees and special grade staff who have served at least five years with Midland.

Houses hiked up

House prices have increased by 8.4 per cent during the past year, according to the latest statistics from the Halifax Building Society. But owners in the GLC area have seen a rise of 17.8 per cent in the past 12 months compared with only 2.2 per cent in the North. Halifax is predicting a rise of a further 8 per cent during the coming years.

Simple tax plea

There will be few taxpayers who would not support the Institute of Chartered Accountants' plea for a simpler tax system. In its annual submission to the

Chancellor on the 1986 Budget (submissions get earlier every year), the Institute maintains the ever increasing complexity is exacerbated by the Annual Finance Bill ritual.

The Institute complains that inefficiencies of the Inland Revenue Accounts Office continue despite protests made and assurances received.

High price risk

It is curious how the insurance companies always manage to dress up a price rise as a price cut. The cost of insurance cover on household contents is set to come down for people living in many rural areas," says Norwich Union in the opening lines of its announcement. Much lower down it slips in the fact that the unlucky inner-city dwellers are going to have to pay more.

Householders in the worst risk, inner city areas will pay a horrific £12 per £1,000 for household contents cover and this rate will apply to more areas than before. Liverpool inner city areas are to be included in this top rate which must mean that the cost of insuring for some householders will simply be unaffordable.

Skipton rate cut

Skipton Building Society is cutting the rates it pays to investors - admittedly by a small amount, but it might be worthwhile looking around to see if there is anything better on offer. Rates on its Sovereign Shares are coming down from 9.85 per cent to 9.25 per cent for sums of £500 to £4,999, with the rate paid on £5,000 plus dropping from 9.85 per cent to 9.7 per cent.

IR is getting there

Good news for those waiting for a tax rebate - bad news for those who owe tax - the Inland Revenue is introducing measures to clear the huge backlog of mail that has built up. Most important in speeding up the process of answering letters has been the lifting of the long running overtime ban imposed by the Inland Revenue Staff Federation. In addition, the IR is to take on extra staff to deal with the backlog.

Loans in full

One hundred per cent home loans up to a maximum of £80,000 are on offer from insurance broker, John Charcol Limited. The loans are endowment linked and the rate is a not so attractive 13.5 per cent, but if you have no deposit, a loan at 1 per cent over the going rate is better than not being able to buy a house at all. Details from John Charcol Limited, Marbury House, 186 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RE. (Tel: 01 589 2828).

Personal Pensions

How to get a top performing plan with no hidden traps

Some pension plans penalize you if you retire earlier than you originally intended; some, if you don't want to commit yourself to paying identical premiums every year.

With the Equitable with profits plans you'll encounter no such traps. Retire early, for instance, and we'll pay you the full value of your fund accumulated to date.

Whatever your special requirements are, you need not sacrifice superlative performance for flexibility.

Arranging your own pension? If you're a partner, self-employed or simply not in a company pension scheme, the kind of results you could expect from an Equitable plan might surprise you. For example, a man aged 30 paying tax at 40% could collect a staggering £170,173 p.a. gross from 65 for a net annual outlay of £1000.

Over the last 8 years Planned Savings magazine has compiled 16 tables surveying 10 and 20 year regular premium with profits plans. The Equitable has been top in eight and second in four more. No other company has even approached this remarkable record.

In your company's pension scheme? If your company pension will be less than two thirds of your final salary you may be able to top up your pension. For instance a man aged 32 paying tax at 40% could collect £98,724 p.a. gross from 60 for a net annual outlay of £1500. Bear in mind that this is in addition to your company pension.

Over the years, in Planned Savings' surveys of 10 year regular premium with profits pension plans for executives and other employees, The Equitable has come top more often than any other company.

Of course the past cannot guarantee the future, but for outstanding results without any of the hidden traps, cut out the coupon or speak to us direct on 01-606 6611.

*If current immediate annuity rates apply at the time and if current bonus rates including terminal bonus are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed. Because of the form of current pension arrangements, the schemes are not generally available to self-employed or employees of local government or non-UK domiciled individuals.

For The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2A 3JT. I would welcome further details of The Equitable's retirement plans. ☐ I am self-employed; ☐ I am an employee not in a company's pension scheme; ☐ I want to top up benefits from my company's pension scheme; ☐ I would also welcome details on retirement plans linked to up to ten investment funds. (UK residents only)

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel: (Office) _____
Date of Birth _____ Tel: (Home) _____

The Equitable Life

The oldest mutual life office in the world.

Five reasons for investing in the new Henderson Global Income and Growth Trust.

Since the lifting of UK exchange control regulations it has made good sense for every prudent investor to put a part of his or her capital overseas. The performance of shares in international stockmarkets has rewarded investors with consistent, long-term capital growth.

But it is a well established fact that for those people who need a regular income from their investment the opportunities overseas have been somewhat limited.

Henderson believe there are now excellent opportunities for obtaining a higher yield from international investments. The new Henderson Global Income and Growth Trust is being launched to make these opportunities available to UK investors.

The objective of this new trust is to achieve a high and rising income with a measure of capital appreciation. The estimated initial gross yield will be 5.5% p.a. paid in two half-yearly instalments.

Since the price of units in a unit trust and the income from them can go down as well as up, it is of course impossible to make firm promises about future performance. But the potential is well illustrated by the performance of other unit trusts managed by Henderson.

When we took over the management of the Henderson Income and Growth Trust in 1980 an investment of £1,000 then would have yielded a gross income in 1981 of £99. In 1985 income would have risen to £161 and the capital value of the investment would now be £3,305 (offer to bid basis).

Henderson successfully manage £3 billion of investor's funds and are

highly regarded as international investment managers, with 16 established unit trusts specialising in different world markets or sectors of the world economy and the track records of these trusts have often been spectacular.

Using Henderson's extensive experience of the world's leading stockmarkets, we plan to adopt an active management policy, adjusting the balance of the portfolio according to the prospects for each geographical area. Initially investments will be made in the USA (45%), Japan (10%), Hong Kong (5%), Europe (5%), as well as in the UK (30%). The portfolio will be made up partly of high yielding ordinary shares - especially those of major international companies and utilities - and partly of fixed interest shares.

Investing in the new trust couldn't be simpler. Until 29th November units are available at the fixed offer price of 50p each. All you have to do is complete the application form opposite, and return it together with your cheque either direct or through your professional adviser.

- 1 A stake in the world's leading stockmarkets.
- 2 A high level of income (5.5% p.a. estimated gross initial yield).
- 3 The potential for capital growth.
- 4 Managed by a highly experienced team.
- 5 Fixed price offer of 50p per unit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
An initial charge of 5% (plus VAT) on the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries; rates available on request.
An annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust will be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs with a provision in the Trust Deed to increase this to a maximum of 2% on giving 3 months written notice to unit holders.
Distribution of income will be paid on 13th February and 13th August, with the first payment on the 13th August 1986.
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Consumers will bank on Mr Jones

BANKS

Ian Edwards-Jones, a barrister aged 62, is a Social Security Commissioner arbitrating on social security cases. On December 9 he makes history by becoming Britain's first banking ombudsman.

On January 1 he will accept his first complaints from some of the country's 33 million banking customers, and will be empowered to make an award of up to £50,000.

A new era in consumer banking will dawn, though the 18 UK clearing banks which are financing his £43,000 a year job, offices and staff, may well have opened a Pandora's Box.

A significant aspect of Mr Edwards-Jones's appointment last week is that the banks are now visibly trying to improve their reputation of being somewhat dismissive of their high street customers. The building societies have forced them along this path, but the new ombudsman could push them further.

A customer's complaint will still have to go through the usual channels, starting with the branch manager. However, now there will be an impartial arbitrator at the end of the line. His very existence will make a psychological difference to disgruntled bank users who thought it wasn't worth making a fuss.

All credit to the banks - the service is free, it is hoped it will be quick and simple, and the customer can still resort to the courts if he doesn't like the ombudsman's verdict though the banks will be bound by his decision.

Mr Edwards-Jones sees his role as an investigator trying to assess whether maladministration has occurred, whether it be an investment decision by



Ian Edwards-Jones: His appointment heralds a new era in banking practice

the bank's estate and trusts department or simply a cash dispenser chewing up a cash card.

"Maladministration is like an emergency, you can't define it but you can recognize it straight when you meet it."

His impartiality it is hoped, will be secured by the recently formed Ombudsman Council, which will act as a buffer between him and the banks.

Mr Edwards-Jones was selected by, and will report to, the council, chaired by ex-Lord Mayor of London Dame Mary Donaldson and three other lay

persons - the National Consumers' Council chairman Rachel Wetherill, ITN's Sir Alastair Burnet and ex-Iron & Steel Union boss Bill Sims - as well as three banking representatives.

Steering a line between paymaster and public

Meeting Mr Edwards-Jones this week, it is obvious why he beat apparently stiff competition for the post. His track record is impeccable. He was wounded at Anzio in Italy during the War, subsequently became a barrister in Chancery and was made a QC in 1967.

Specializing in such appropriate areas as international banking and insurance, he has been a SS Commissioner since 1979. He is glad he got the initial two-year appointment as ombudsman because with another nine years to go as a commissioner, "I might have gone stale", he says.

Mr Edwards-Jones's terms of reference are fairly specific. "I am not a one man legislator,"

he explains, "It is not my job to change the banking law and the banks' own terms of contract with the customer as they stand. I can only make an award on the status quo."

The banks have also made sacrosanct their right to refuse a customer's request for a loan on "commercial" grounds. It will be no good complaining to the ombudsman if you're turned down for an overdraft unless maladministration of some kind can be proved.

Bank customers have the National Consumer Council to thank for encouraging the banks to create an ombudsman. In 1983 it did a detailed report on bank/customer relations and found that although most customers were satisfied with their banks there were a lot of grumbles, and a significant few reckoned they had been very badly treated indeed.

Some 24 per cent of those polled thought there was a great need for an impartial judge of banking disputes.

Mr Edwards-Jones is expecting 1986 to be "hectic and exacting" and he thinks he will be busier than he ever was as a

Chancery barrister. He has to steer a straight line between his paymasters, "who after all have given me a warrant to sign away £50,000", and the public. "I must visualize the grass roots position as well", he says.

But despite the banks understandably protecting themselves from being dictated to by the ombudsman, there does seem to be considerable scope for him to become a persuasive advocate for the consumer in instances where he thinks the banks could do better.

The banks have based his position on the insurance industry's version (The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau) set up in 1981, which has been a great success in appeasing disgruntled policy holders and improving the industry's public image.

Mr Edwards-Jones is going to have a harder task than his insurance counterpart, for the simple reason that the policy holder comes in contact with his insurance company usually on two occasions - when he renews his policy and when he claims. Obviously, the chances of friction developing are much higher in banking so presumably there will be more complaints, and there is also no contract to refer to as there is in insurance.

He is not keen to cite a specific characteristic that makes him suitable for the role of banking Solomon, except that like most barristers, "I've developed a capacity to listen."

"I've developed a capacity to listen" very carefully to what I am told.

He has been with the same bank since leaving school in 1939 and has had the occasional "frank exchange of views" with his bank managers, but nothing passionate.

Mr Edwards-Jones's message to all those irate bank users longing to thump on his door is "please remember that I can only deal with complaints about incidents that have occurred after January 1 or at least been discovered after that date". He hopes that as soon as he has an office and a telephone number there will be lots of publicity. "But please be patient while we get it working," he urges.

Hilaire Gomer

Last big increase for some time

PENSIONS

Pensioners should make the most of the 7 per cent increase in state pensions later this month. If all goes according to the Government's plans it will be the last substantial increase for some time.

The single person's pension goes up from £35.80 to £38.30 in the week beginning November 25. The pension for a married couple will rise from £57.30 to £61.30.

Tucked away in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement on the economy, published on Tuesday, were the official projections for the next three rises in pensions and other benefits.

These are, that pensions will increase by 1 per cent next July, an increase in the single pension of just 40p to £38.70. The married pension would rise by 60p to £61.90.

In April, 1987, according to the plans, pensions will rise by 2.25 per cent - an 85p increase for single people to £39.55, and a £1.40 rise for married couples, to £63.30.

A year later, in April 1988, pensions will rise by a further 3.25 per cent, the statement says. This means £1.30 on the single pension, to £40.85, and £2.05 extra for married couples, to a new pension of £65.35.

In other words, after a £2.50 increase in the single pension

this month, the next three upratings will result in a combined rise of only slightly more: £2.55. The sums are smaller for married couples, the 24 increase this month followed by a combined increase in the next three years of £4.05.

How has this come about? Is the Government repaying on its promise to push up pensions in line with inflation?

The answer is no. Change in the timing of pension increases and official expectations of a sharp fall in the inflation rate next year have conspired to

The timing of pension increases is changing

work to the advantage of the Government and against the pensioner.

In line with the Green Paper: Reform of Social Security, the Government is moving the time of year when pensions are increased from November to April.

As a first step, next year's uprating will take place in July, based on the increase in the retail prices index in the eight months from last May to January. Because of lower mortgage rates and the effects of the pound's sharp rise on imports prices, the Retail Prices Index (RPI) has hardly risen at all in recent months.

The Treasury expects the May-January increase to be just 1 per cent, hence the projected size of next year's pension increase.

In contrast, under the old system, pensioners would have had to wait for months for their 1986 rise, but they could expect an increase of 4 per cent or so, matching the likely inflation rate in May.

The same thing happens in 1987, when pensions are due to be raised in April to match the rise in the retail prices index between January and September 1986. The Treasury is optimistic about inflation over this period, anticipating a rise of 2.25 per cent in the index.

The following year, 1988, pensions switch fully to an April uprating, based on the rise in prices over the 12 months to the previous September.

Until then, it looks as if pensioners are getting short-changed. This would be particularly so if the Treasury is right on inflation until September next year, but it then began to accelerate quite sharply, as some outside economic forecasters expect.

Pensioners would eventually get compensated but in the meantime they would have to bear sizeable reductions in the real values of their pensions.

David Smith

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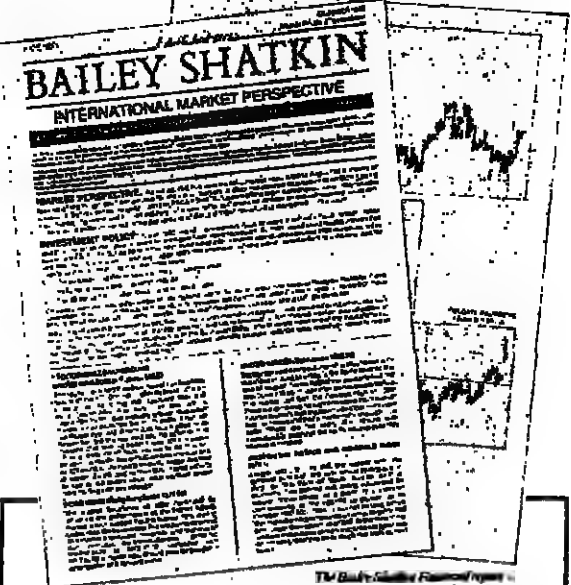
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FAMILY MONEY/4

Investing for capital growth/1: How to use large sums efficiently

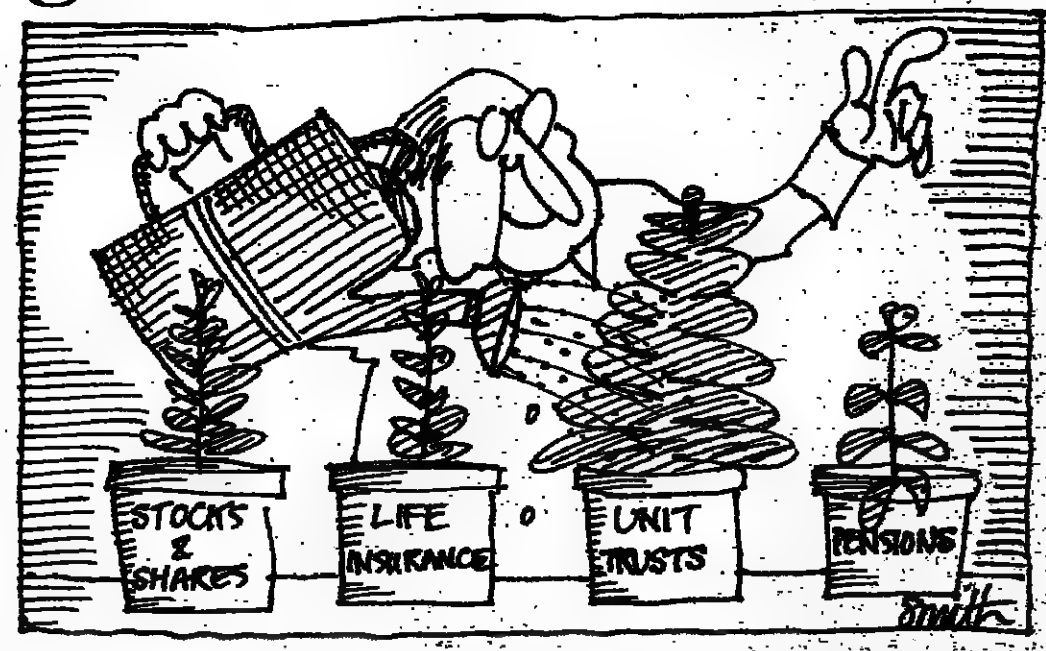
Making the most of £25,000

"My parents have just died and the house has been sold. My share of the inheritance is about £25,000," writes Mrs Mary Aston. "My husband and I are in our early 50s and although my husband will be entitled to a company pension when he retires, he has been with the firm only seven years so he will not get the maximum. We want to invest the £25,000 for capital growth to help subsidise our income in retirement. What do you recommend?"

Mrs Aston's inquiry is typical of thousands. More and more people who never expected to inherit a substantial sum of money are finding themselves with capital from rapidly rising house prices.

Sometimes the beneficiary is a child and parents want to invest so that the child has a useful nest egg at age 18. Other readers have asked how to invest a lump sum received as a divorce settlement.

Even those who need income from their investments will find that going for capital growth can be much more tax efficient for higher rate taxpayers. Better to pay capital gains tax at 30 per cent than income tax at 40 per cent. With something like a selection of good income unit trusts you will hopefully have a bit of both income and capital gains.



£10,000 investment into £27,000. His nearest rival is Peter Edwards at Premier Unit Trust Brokers who has managed to show a £9,605 profit on the original £10,000 investment, with Hoare Govett in third place at £16,791.

These figures, although out of date, will give some idea of the longer term performance achieved. Both Richard Longstaff and Premier are members of NASDIM, Hoare Govett is a stockbroker.

With the removal of life assurance tax relief, in terms of tax efficiency, only two investment vehicles are in the running for the investor looking for capital growth - contributions to a personal pension plan (see Family Money November 9) - and unit trusts.

If Mr Aston had not already been a member of a company pension scheme, their best bet would be to put a substantial proportion of the £25,000 into a personal pension scheme.

Tax relief may be possible on large sums

Full income tax relief at your highest rate paid is available on contributions to a personal pension plan and you can backdate payments for up to seven years. Up to 17.5 per cent of your net relevant earnings can be put into a personal pension plan, so it might well have been possible to obtain tax relief on the full £25,000 investment, reducing the cost by at least 30 per cent, possibly 60 per cent.

Last week's Family Money gave details of performance of personal pension schemes and the different types available.

Consistently good performers on the with-profit endowment-type are Equitable Life, The Pru, Equity & Law, NPI and Provident Mutual. M & G and Barclays have done well on the unit-linked side along with Target and Vanbrugh. But here, much will depend on the type of fund to which you link your pension policy and you will need professional advice.

First thing is to take professional advice

So what should investors do? Much will depend on how much money you have to invest and how much risk you can afford to take. The first thing is to take professional advice from someone who can advise on all the investments available - not just on life assurance or stocks and shares.

Some of the bigger stockbrokers such as Griceveson Grant, Scrimgeour Vickers and Capel Cure Myers, have private client departments which can advise on everything from Capital Transfer Tax, school fees and pensions to straightforward investment in shares and unit trusts.

For those with smaller sums - say £5,000 to £50,000 - one of the investment advisory firms which is a member of both NASDIM (the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers) and the British Insurance Brokers Association, can help.

All the larger ones run unit trust portfolio management services and have qualified pensions and life assurance advisers.

A survey of unit trust portfolio managers, carried out by Planned Savings Magazine, puts Richard Longstaff's Mark Searle still in the lead after three years, turning an original

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FAMILY MONEY/5

Investing for capital growth/2: Getting a discount on unit trusts

The price can be right when you deal direct

When we suggested recently that discounts on unit trust purchases were available to investors who bought units direct from the managers, rather than through an intermediary, readers wrote in saying they had been refused discounts for direct investments.

They enclosed letters from groups including M&G, Britannia and Framlington, all of which stated that discounts were not available. Henderson wrote saying discounts were "purely at the discretion of individual fund managers", and that, "in the main", better terms were not available for direct investors who bypassed the intermediary.

The good news for unit trust investors, however, is that discounts are available. In fact, almost all unit trust groups will offer them to direct investors. We rang up all the above groups as well as three others, namely Hambros Bank Unit Trust Managers, Hill Samuel and Perpetual. Posing as an investor with £15,000 to invest directly and asking for a discount, every single unit trust group said that discounts were available, ranging up to 3 per cent.

Britannia, which had previously written to a reader saying that "it is not Britannia's policy to provide any higher discounts to people if investment is purposefully not passed through an intermediary", was very obliging.

"Generally speaking we will give a discount for anything over £10,000, but it is subject to

the discretion of the directors", was what the company told us. And when we asked how much the discount would be, the company said: "It is the normal 1.25 per cent that we allocate to brokers and intermediaries".

A similarly glaring inconsistency was displayed by Framlington: it had written to one reader in the following terms: "I am afraid that we do not make discounts or bonuses available except in special circumstances".

Some gave generous discounts on trusts

"You can have a one per cent discount", we were told. "If you invest £15,000 and you spread it among our trusts you will get a one per cent discount on each".

Much more generous terms are available from Perpetual, not one of the groups that had written refusing to pay discounts.

"We don't normally offer any discounts," it said. "But we do have an offer on at the moment. You can get a 2 per cent discount if you invest sums of more than £2,500".

When we said we had far more than £2,500 available, Perpetual told us "we can stretch it to 3 per cent".

The same story was repeated across the board: Henderson told us it would give 2 per cent discounts for all those trusts in its stable that were on an "offer" basis - in effect where the purchase price of the units is

nearer the top end of the bid/offer spread range. A 1 per cent discount was available for those trusts on the lower "bid" level, such as its Japan Trust and Japan Special Situations Trust.

M&G said it offered discounts of 1 per cent "but only on bigger investments - discounts start at £20,000".

Hill Samuel discounts start at 1 per cent for £15,000, for sums near the £30,000 mark and above they are 2 per cent. Hill Samuel had not previously refused a reader a discount. Neither had Hambros - discounts were only available for really large sizes such as between £50,000 to £100,000, where economies of scale start to bite.

It is worth bearing in mind that many unit trust groups actually advertise discounts. For instance, Oppenheimer Fund Management is offering 2 per cent discounts for investments in trusts through its monthly savings plan. Moreover, new unit trust launches are often accompanied by limited duration offers of discounts for those investing within a certain period.

Remember that the Unit Trust Association, the trade association for unit trusts, does not outlaw discounts. The association takes the view that it is entirely up to individual unit trust groups to formulate their own policy on discounts.

So, do not be fobbed off by any excuse along the lines of there being a discount prohibi-

UNIT TRUSTS



tion for the industry as a whole. Why the inconsistency? It could be that our readers were not going to invest sufficient to tempt the unit trust groups concerned into discounts. Technically this should not be an obstacle because whatever the size of the sum invested directly, the unit trust group will save on the commission that it does not have to pay to an intermediary.

More likely, the particular groups concerned are fearful of prejudicing their existing relationships with intermediaries who put business their way. If it was widely known that direct investment qualified for a discount, then it may be that

the intermediaries would look elsewhere - to groups they thought did not give discounts - when it came to recommending unit trusts to their clients.

Whatever the reason, the advice remains the same: always try to negotiate a discount if you are investing directly. If you are refused, ask what level that discounts begin, because if the amount is right, discounts will be available. And even if you come below that level the group has for discounts, you could always point out that you may have more money to invest shortly.

Lawrence Lever

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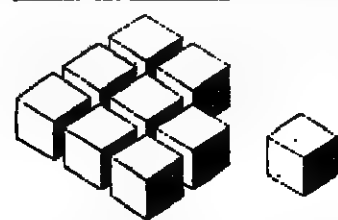
Of course, you must remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

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This offer closes on the 5th December 1985.

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Please tick the box if you do NOT wish to have income re-invested in additional units. ☐

Your cheque should be made payable to Prudential Unit Trust Managers Limited. Please complete the following in BLOCK CAPITALS

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Prudential
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FAMILY MONEY/7

Investing for capital growth/4: Profit margins
Calm words from the experts

With shares scaling new peaks day after day it is not surprising that some investors are getting twitchy and wondering whether they should bank their profits.

But the unanimous view from a straw poll of five investment experts this week was not to panic. "I'm fairly relaxed about the whole thing," says Peter Hargreaves of unit trust advisers Hargreaves Lansdown. "I have had people waiting to invest since the market was at 500 and they are still waiting."

He believes that inflation will continue to come down and there is still hope for lower interest rates, so the overall picture is quite bright. His interest in UK unit trusts is focused on those specialising in smaller companies.

Touche Remnant has three funds in the top 15 over the first 10 months of this year, including their smaller companies fund at number 10. Paul Manduca, a Touche Remnant director with responsibility for unit trusts, believes there could be a sticky patch coming in UK equities with TSB, Wellcome, Cable and Wireless and the large rights issues from Lucas draining funds from the rest of the market.

"I think we could be in for a period of churning with the market moving ahead in the spring looking forward to the budget. We need a fall in interest rates for the market to really take off," says Mr Manduca.

Stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers' Vanguard Special Situations (No 9) owes much of its success to its exposure to smaller companies. CCM director Fred Carr says: "The Chancellor's statement is likely to have quite a healthy effect on the market. It's disguised inflation, quite a serious reflection. It will prop up the equity market, if not give it a boost."

Jamie Berry of Berry Asset Management says he is still running fully invested portfolios and expects a good run between now and February, but believes the market could come down with a bump after that.

"At the beginning of '86 people should think seriously about taking profits in most markets."

Mr Berry believes investors should be thinking about realising some profits before the end of the tax year and some after April to minimise their exposure to capital gains tax. "It is better to take profits even if you use up your CGT allowance than to suffer a loss."

Peter Edwards of Premier Unit Trust Brokers also has his clients fully invested with 35 per cent in the UK, 35 per cent in the US, 20 per cent in Japan and 10 per cent in West Germany, with a small exposure to Hong Kong for larger portfolios.

"The London market is absolutely fine. The fundamentals are right for long-term growth. We are quite optimistic

and cheerful and can see no sudden event round the corner to make us worry," says Mr Edwards.

But his advice to nervous investors is not to be too active. The market would have to fall by 10 per cent to make it worth going liquid and buying in again in order to cover the bid/offer spread (which is running at about 6.5 or 7 per cent) and make the exercise worthwhile. With the FT index over 1,000, that means a fall of over 100 points.

But Charles Fry, of Johnson Fry, says: "Given the speed with which you can lose 10 per cent of your profits it would not be unwise to sell half hour holdings if you are nervous."

"If you are nervous, go for half bust. That way you are not going to kick yourself if the market drops or goes up."

Investors looking for a fund to reinvest some of their profits should consider a recovery fund such as M & G Recovery, says Mr Fry.

Kean Senger of Whitechurch Securities is not worried by the all-time highs. "The market looks reasonable value compared with underlying factors. But the budget might be a time for reappraisal. The tax cuts will only come if the asset sales get away."

"I would say if people want to take money out of equities to spend it on something in particular then they should go ahead or stay in."

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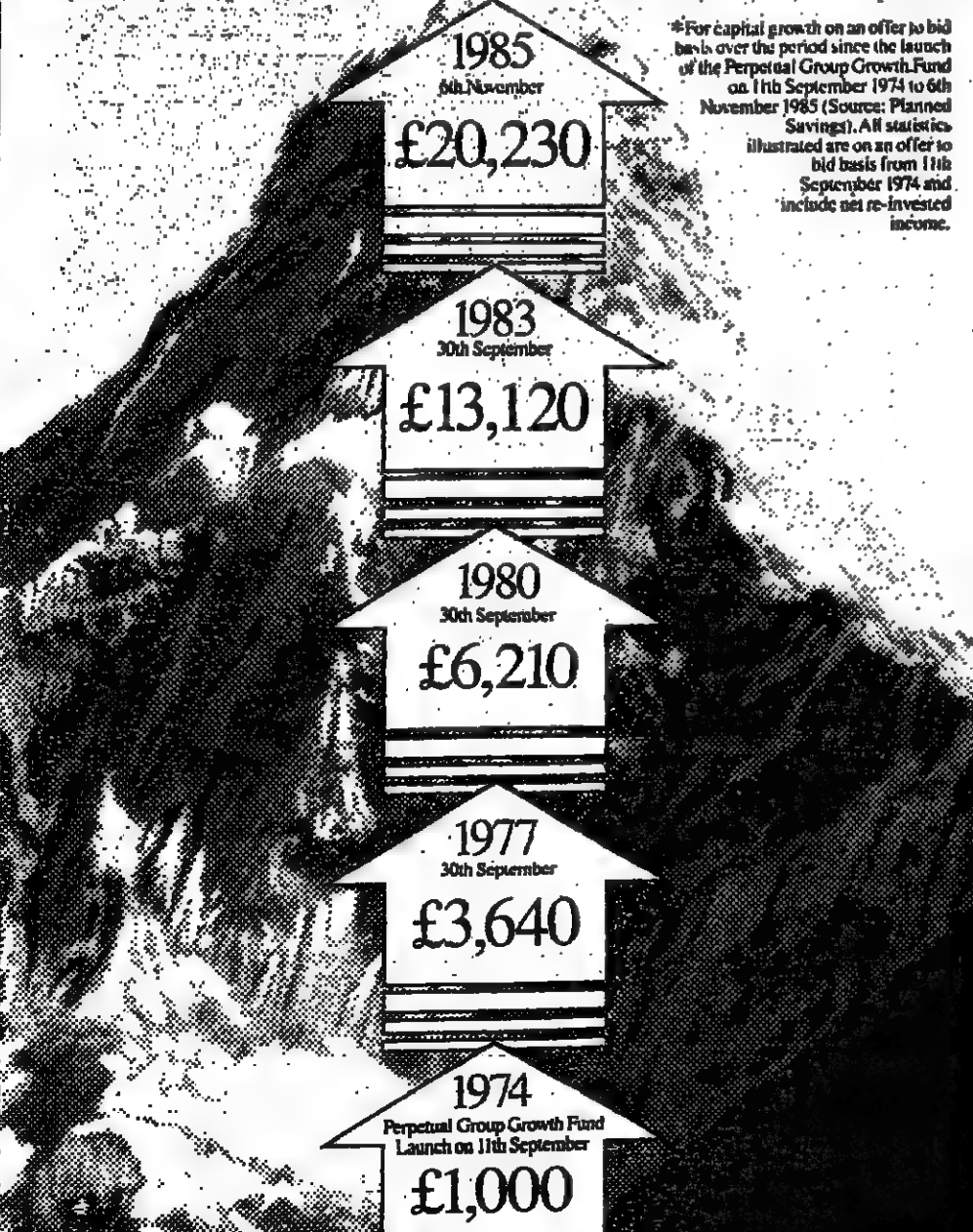
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Daily Telegraph
Saturday 12th July 1985

N.B. Past performance, although an indication of management competence is not a guarantee of future success and investors should accept that unit values and the income derived from them can go down as well as up.

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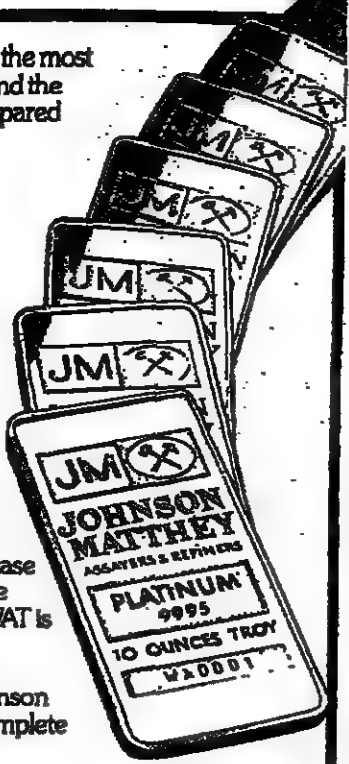
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The money women missed

RETIREMENT

Millie Seager and Lee Ratcliffe have been trying for years to get a state pension. Mrs Seager worked and paid full stamps for 13 years until 1948 when her husband was demobbed from the Royal Air Force.

Mrs Ratcliffe has an even better case. She paid full stamps for a couple of years before the war. Then after her husband died in a Japanese prison camp, she was forced to find a job. She paid full contributions from 1942 to 1961.

And yet both were told they were too old to get a pension - in Mrs Seager's case she was just two days too old to qualify.

Both had fallen foul of the DHSS rule called the "half-test". It bars women from getting a pension in their own right unless they have made full National Insurance contributions (the married woman's reduced stamp doesn't count) for at least half the years between getting married and reaching retirement age at 60.

The "half-test" rule was partly abolished five years ago, but only women who reached 60 after April 6, 1979 struck lucky. It left women like Mrs Seager and Mrs Ratcliffe born the wrong side of what seemed to them like the great divide, angry and frustrated.

Mrs Seager says: "I was born on April, 1919, and missed getting a pension by just two days. Mrs Ratcliffe missed the cut-off by a couple of years, but she had virtually thrown away her 20 years of paying National Insurance. She says: "All my friends were claiming and getting pensions of £10 and £12 a week. Most hadn't worked as long as I had."

She lost out because she

stopped paying the full stamp three years after she remarried in 1958, which effectively wiped out the value of her previous contributions.

But help was at hand in the form of the EEC's Equal Treatment directive which came out at the end of last year. The "half-test" rule gave women an unfair pension deal and was clearly in contravention of the directive.

In the spring, the Government abolished the "half test" for everyone and backdated the

Retired couple with income of £2,000 a year including state pension of £57.30 a week.

Income	£2,000
Less married man's age allowance	4,255
Taxable income	3,745
Tax at 30 per cent	1,124
Income	£8,000
Less married man's age allowance	4,255
Less wife's age allowance claimed on £12 a week	624
Taxable income	3,121
Tax at 30 per cent	936



Millie Seager: Planning what she will do with the back payment on her pension

pension to December 22, 1984 - the date of the ruling.

The wheels of bureaucracy grind exceedingly slow. The DHSS has only now got round to spreading the good word. It says it has found 22,000 women barred from claiming a pension because they were born too early. They may be the tip of the iceberg.

After all, it was only a couple of years ago, when the Government was still refusing to abolish the "half-test" for everyone, that they were claiming there were 150,000 women waiting to claim a pension. Next month the DHSS starts an advertising campaign to try and find the missing women.

In the meantime, women like Mrs Seager and Mrs Ratcliffe are planning what they will do with the money when they get it. Mrs Seager has been told her pension will be £13.60 a week going up to £14.50 in November, and that her back pension is worth £537.60.

Mrs Ratcliffe, with her 20 years of contributions, will get a pension of £27.50 and a lump sum payment of over £1,300.

Anyone who thinks there may be a pension waiting for them should put in a claim at their local DHSS office without delay. Pensions are only backdated for a year, so you could lose some back pension if you put in a claim after December 22.

And even if your husband is already retired and claiming a pension for you based on his contribution record, you could save tax by establishing your right to a pension even though you won't be claiming it.

If you are entitled to a pension of say, £12 a week on your own contributions, the taxman allows you to offset this amount against the wife's age allowance, now £2,690. This is a tax saving of £4 a week, so long as your other income doesn't exceed £2,690 (see table).

Anthea Masey

'Caring for the client is also part of the job'

From Barclay J. Lamm, Lamont & Partners, Registered Unit Trust Intermediaries, 48 Charles Street, London W1X 7PB

With reference to your articles in "last" Saturday's Family Money, "Loyalty at the investors' cost", to suggest that private clients should deal on their own account on the basis of an intermediaries' recommendations is to completely deny an independent adviser's role.

The thought of investors being encouraged to take our advice without placing the business through us is a worrying prospect not only for us but for our clients, as an investment bulletin rarely provides advice regarding the selling or switching of funds and certainly does not provide such advice in relation to investor's individual circumstances.

Making a profit from a unit trust involves not only buying at the right time but selling at the right time and the latter piece of advice may not necessarily be available to those people unwise enough to act upon the suggestions made in your article.

When an investment adviser deals direct with a client, he makes an assessment not only on the worthiness of unit-trusts and markets but the client's position and longer term objectives.

It really is most unfair to foster the image of a typical unit trust broker as someone who wishes to sell as many unit trusts to as many people as possible, making the maximum amount of commission regardless of the on-going implications as far as the client is concerned.

There are a number of firms who provide excellent service to their clients, on a truly independent and professional basis without the constant pre-occupation of generating commissions and with the clients' best interests as their sole consideration.

Target's European success story.

New fund soars 40% since April launch.

The result of escalating demand for shares in European markets PLUS Target's experience in identifying 'special situations'.

The stockmarket scene throughout Europe is changing rapidly. Until recently, the shares of European companies were concentrated in the hands of banks and other institutions. Now, suddenly, the market is opening up.

Industries needing to expand their capital bases in order to fight off foreign competition have turned to equity financing via the stockmarket. And individual investors have been quick to seize this new opportunity as well.

So much so that stock prices are moving up strongly, with greater demand for shares causing rising prices which, in turn, has caused more interest from other investors worldwide.

The success of Target's approach.

With the growing interest in European shares and developing sophistication of European stockmarkets, we anticipate that Fund Managers will diversify into good second-line and 'special situation' stocks which look poised to outperform the larger companies in the longer term. Target has long had experience in management of special situations in the United Kingdom. Its UK Special Situations Fund was launched in 1978 and has provided investors with a return of 31.6% compared to the return from the average UK growth fund of 19.2%.

This experience and expertise has been applied to the European Special Situations Fund.

Source: Money Management Oct. 1985 (UK growth funds offer to bid, income reinvested over 7 years).

Asset Valuation.

If we think a share is radically undervalued compared to the net asset value of the company, we earmark it as a low risk way of buying what could well prove to be a highly geared stock.

Take the case of Deutsche Bank which appears in the Target European Special Situations Fund portfolio.

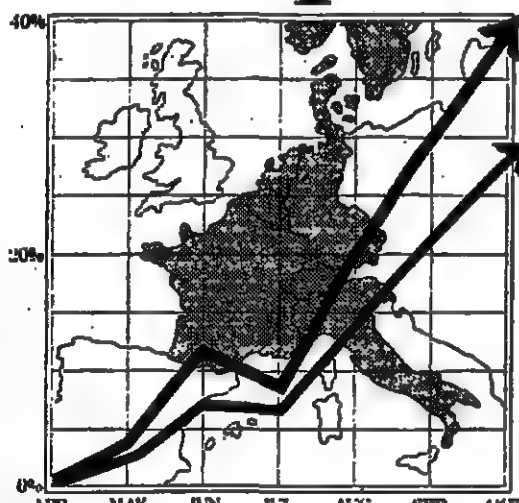
With the recent improvement in the German economy, loan demand has improved and provision for bad debts has been reduced, which has helped the Bank's profit margins. However, of greater interest is the growth in Deutsche Bank's assets as a result of its ownership of shares in fast expanding German companies. In our view, Deutsche Bank shares stand at little above their asset value, taking only slight account of future growth in earnings.

Since Deutsche Bank is Germany's premier bank, this proves the point that 'special situation' doesn't necessarily signify 'small company'.

Growth Potential.

We also look for companies which are diversifying, or even changing out of all recognition - factors which are probably not known to most private investors.

A good example of such a company within the Target European Special Situations Fund is Adia.



This Swiss temporary-employment agency is the third largest in the world.

As demand for temporary employment has grown, they have broadened their range of services and expanded internationally, notably in America.

Furthermore, they have diversified their interests by investing in companies involved in totally different spheres of work.

Although the share price has risen considerably since we first purchased it, we consider there is scope for still further improvement.

Portfolio as at Nov. 4th 1985.

Codan Forsikring • Lafarge Copee SA • Thomson CSF • M&S Electronics • In-Formatique • Piper Heidsieck • Bequerel • Devanney • Dunelm Ltd • Ecco • Immeubles France • Elveco • Latana Print • SIFA • SUP • Hunter Douglas • Knaus Industrie • Bonheur • Dyvi • HSD • Schaefer-Sander • Toms • Helicopter Services • Allis-Laval • Sandvik • Furbo • Age • Stuchard • Interdiscourt • Adia • EBS-Genève • Swiss Bank Corp. • Credit Suisse • Aronson

Further Information.

Applications and cheques will be acknowledged. Certificates will be sent within 45 days of receipt. You may sell your units at any time at a price which will not be less than that calculated by Department of Trade and Industry regulations. Payment will be made within 10 days of receipt by the managers of the remitted certificate. Prices of units and yields are quoted daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units, out of which remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request. An annual charge of 1% plus VAT of the value of the fund is deducted from gross income. All units are redeemable units. On 15th November 1985, Target European Special Situations Fund units were available at an offer price of 70p and the current estimated gross annual yield was 0.5%.

The Trustees of Target European Special Situations Fund is Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd. Managers: Target Trust Managers Limited (a member of the Unit Trust Association), 7-9 Beames Buildings, London EC4A 3EL Registered in England, Number 847846 at Target House, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.

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I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £500) in the Target European Special Situations Fund, at the price ruling on receipt of this application. I/We enclose a cheque for this sum, made payable to Target Trust Managers Limited.

Full Name(s)

Address

Postcode

My professional adviser is

Please send details of how to exchange shares for unit trusts. ☐ Tick box if applicable.

Every year a holiday policy

A holiday every year of your life in Malta is part of the package on offer with the Capital Life and Leisure Bond. The idea is that you save over a 10 year period using a 10 year with profits endowment policy from Glasgow based FS Assurance.

At the end you have three options: surrender half the maturity value for two weeks holiday in Malta for life, surrender the full value for four weeks holiday, or simply take the cash.

As part of the ideal you also have to pay £300 at the outset directly to Carrosale Leisure which organises the holiday element of the bond. Then during the next 10 years the monthly payments of £60 are split £45 to the endowment policy and £15 to Carrosale.

But you are entitled to take an annual holiday in Malta during the 10 years, and there will be no claw-back if you discontinue the payments.

The holiday has to be taken

in the four star Grand Hotel Excelsior overlooking Valetta Harbour. Although the accommodation comes free, visitors will have to pay for all their own meals which would add up to £175 in a fortnight, plus a service charge of £38 (rising by not more than 10 per cent a year) to cover transport to and from the hotel and the hotel service charge.

On top of this there is still the airfare, approximately £120 return.

Bondholders will have to book their fortnight every year and will be allocated their holiday on a first-come, first-served basis. The bond is issued by Carrosale.

FS Assurance does not stand behind the bond but our satisfaction with the scheme arrangements and visibility should ensure a greater degree of acceptability than Carrosale might achieve on its own," said FS's marketing manager Harry Gavey.

Bondholders who do not want

to go to Malta again are free to sell their right to the holiday time. The option to go to other hotels in Malta will be added at a later date. "It is a way of buying inflation-proof leisure," says McGee.

If the bondholder dies during the 10 year investment period there is a guaranteed death benefit of £25,000 and the estate will get the right to two weeks hotel accommodation for the balance of the 10 years with the service charge as a gift.

No evidence is required and bondholders must be under 70 to avoid people taking up the scheme as a way of leaving their beneficiaries the remaining holidays as a gift.

A two week package with British Airways to the deluxe Phoenix Hotel in Valetta costs from £459 to £569 half board - a margin of £172.20 to £282.20 over the up-front cost of a holiday to a bondholder on a half-board basis.

VG

The Family Inheritance Trust.

HAZELWOOD, Mrs. Lillian E. Reigate, Surrey. From an estate of £295,638 leaves £164,255 to her family and £131,383 to H.M. Inspector of taxes.

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If your estate, including your house, is valued at £120,000 or more, one of the main beneficiaries of your will is likely to be the taxman.

Unless, that is, you take steps to put your estate out of his reach.

The London Life Family Inheritance Trust helps you to do just that. Indeed, to do more than that. As well as minimizing the potentially ruinous effects of Capital Transfer Tax, it provides you with a regular, tax-free income, whilst at all times allowing you access to your capital. On top of this, there are the

additional benefits of choosing London Life.

Notably the fact that we do not pay commission to middlemen, so your money goes where it ought to: into the trust. (It sounds like common sense, but it's far from common practice.)

And as we have over 175 years' experience and one of the best investment records in the business, you can also be sure that your money is going into very good hands.

If you'd like to know more about the Family Inheritance Trust, fill in and return the coupon below.

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Are you a London Life policyholder already? ☐ Yes/No ☐ (circle as applicable)

Tel. Nos. Business

Home

London Life

(If you prefer you can call Jeremy Ward on 0800-717171 - free of charge - to discuss your requirements personally.)

FAMILY MONEY/9

INTEREST RATES
ROUND-UP

"RE THERE IS, IT'S ALWAYS THE WAY THE TIME OF THE YEAR TO SEE"

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - seven days, notice required for withdrawals, Barclays 5.75 per cent, Lloyds 6.00 per cent, Midland 5.75 per cent, NatWest 6 per cent, National Girobank 6 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 7.875 per cent, 3 months 7.875 per cent, 6 months 7.825 per cent, National Westminster, 1 month 7.66 per cent, 3 months 8.13 per cent, 6 months 7.85 per cent, Midland. Other banks may differ.

Fund	Net	CMAR	Telephone
Alfred Home	8.22	8.57	01 836 6070
8 of Scotland	8.22	8.53	01 836 8050
Bonding Higher Rate			
Deposit Account	8.27	8.54	01 836 1587
£10,000 & over	8.52	8.50	01 836 1587
Cater Allin call	8.22	8.53	01 588 2777
Chorley			
Money Mkt. Plus	8.57	10.00	01 246 1222
HFC Trust 7 day	8.50	8.79	01 236 6391
Westminster Money			
Market	8.22	8.53	01 636 5757
M & G HCA	8.22	8.54	01 826 4586
Midland High Inc			
Chelsea Account	8.00	8.24	0742 20669
£2,000-£5,999	8.30	8.56	0742 20669
£10,000 & over			
Oppenheimer Money			
Management	8.04	8.29	01 836 8982
Oppenheimer M.M.			
£10,000	8.15	8.38	01 236 8362
£10,000 & over	8.00	8.33	0708 66668
Brocker Wagon			
under £10,000	8.04	8.34	0708 62773
over £10,000	8.22	8.54	0708 62773
Unit & Riley call	8.38	8.51	01 236 6932
T & R 7 day	8.24	8.50	0272 732241
Tyndall call	8.25	8.51	0272 732241
Tyndall 7 day	8.12	8.37	01 626 4681
Westminster			
1 month	8.32	8.05	0752 251161

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1985, otherwise 5 per cent. Investment Account - 11.5 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 - max. £50,000. Interest - 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice and monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months' notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Indexed Income Bond
Start rate monthly income for first year, 8 per cent. Income increased at the end of each year to match the year's increase in prices as measured by the Retail Prices Index. Cash value remains the same. Income taxable; paid gross. Three months' notice of withdrawal. Minimum investment £5,000, in multiples of £1,000, up to maximum £50,000.

National Savings 3rd Index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £5,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 2.5 per cent in the

Miss World adds
vital statisticsBUSINESS
EXPANSION

This week's Business Expansion Scheme offerings include a private health club scheme, an antique dealer and a building contractor.

● Miss World Clubs hopes to raise up to £1.3 million through an offer of 10 million shares at 13 pence each. The company intends to develop and operate exclusive membership clubs which will provide a wide range of sporting, cosmetic and therapeutic amenities.

The Miss World connection comes through the involvement of Eric Morley and his son Julian, both of whom are directors of the company. Neither will be paid directors' fees nor have any direct investment in the company.

However, Miss World Group, the Unilever Securities Market quoted leisure group, of which both Morleys are directors and Eric is a principal shareholder has, along with joint-sponsors Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation, put approximately £24,000 into the company.

Moreover, Miss World Group will, if the minimum subscription of £520,000 is reached, put an extra £200,000 into the company.

The fact that this money is being invested at the 10 pence par value of the shares rather than the 13 pence price applicable to outside shareholders should be ignored, as BES relief is not available on the sizeable amounts that interested parties are investing.

Miss World Group will also be providing management services at a fee of £25,000 per annum or 25 per cent of pre-tax profits - subject to a maximum remuneration of £75,000 a year.

For this the company will be provided with full financial and administrative facilities, the services of the Morleys and promotional back-up which includes the use of the Miss World name as well as the lucky girl herself.

The company has already purchased a club near Heathrow airport and is converting it. Trading should commence in March so investors will not have to wait long to receive their tax relief.

● Antique Dealers International is already up and trading from workshop premises in Somerset, its principle activities being antique dealing and restoration. It is worth pointing out that the directors have already put £220,000 into the company, paying slightly more for their £1 shares than outside shareholders will. Moreover, the main incentive for the directors, which comes in the form of warrants, can only be triggered off when earnings exceed 10p a share.

Moreover, the company ought to have a substantial degree of asset backing. This will be in the form of antique stock and freehold or long leasehold premises which the company intends to acquire with part of the proceeds of the issue. Antique Dealers is looking for up to £2.5 million.

● Gladding Secured Contractors, the third BES company, is

going for a more ambitious £5 million, to pursue the business of building contractors. Two of the directors of this company also have their own substantial building contractors business.

The BES company has already begun trading - hence investors should not have to wait long for their tax relief. The directors, who are taking substantial shareholdings will pay £1 per share - the same price as everyone.

The popularity of the Business Expansion Scheme is increasing according to statistics announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, in the House of Commons this week.

In 1983-84, the first year of the scheme, some 715 companies raised a total of £105 million. However, according to provisional figures for 1984-85, the Inland Revenue knows of 502 companies who have already raised £103 million.

So it looks as if 1984-85 BES finance will comfortably exceed the previous year - although the number of companies actually seeking finance may well be less. It would appear that the BES companies are asking for and getting more money from investors.

Another interesting statistic is the fact that the £105 million raised in the first year of the BES came from some 20,000 investors. This produces an average investment of just over £5,000, and indicates that investors were not at the time of the new scheme's infancy prepared to risk their maddest qualifying investment in one scheme.

Mr Lawson says that much of the money is going on small risky enterprises. The plethora of property development, farming, wine, art and general asset-backed schemes suggests that by far the majority of BES money is going elsewhere. LL

FRAMLINGTON CAPITAL TRUST

see page...7

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Small Businesses

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Britannia Viewpoint

Looking at Unit Trusts

New trust
attracts
investors

'International' success reflects income funds' widening appeal

In a recent year specialist growth funds have been all the rage. Now income funds are making a comeback as more people have to face up to the demands of retirement. As a nation, we are rapidly growing older. At the turn of the century only one person in thirteen was aged 60 or over. Today this figure is more than one in five, and 11.4 million of us are in or close to the retirement age group.

Not surprisingly, more of the investing public are looking for a rising income as well as capital growth. The new Britannia International High Income Fund, launched on September 30, has attracted £6 million in a few weeks, which proves the growing popularity of income unit trusts.

The advantage the latter have over building society investments is highlighted by the track record of a well-established fund such as Britannia's Income & Growth Trust.

FINANCE A HIT
AT OLYMPIA

Public response to the first major personal finance show, Money 85, held at London's Olympia in October, was enthusiastic. Over 12,500 people came and many of their questions were extremely sophisticated and searching reported staff on Britannia's stand.

Japan funds now
back on upward course

Patricia Preneta reports from Tokyo

It's now the time for enterprising investors to move into Japan unit trusts? After five solid months in decline, the sector bounced back into profit in August and September with average rises of 5.5% and 10.9%.

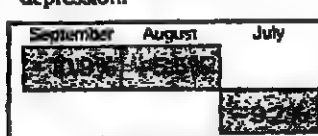
From here the economic pointers for the Japanese economy look more hopeful than earlier in the year, so my answer to investors is a cautious 'yes'.

The sheer success of Japanese exporters was responsible for this year's problems. The Tokyo market has been overshadowed by fears of tough

protectionist measures by the U.S. and other countries. A weak yen against the over-strong dollar has also caused depression.

With prospects looking bright, the market has reacted positively and Japan sector unit trust prices in the U.K. have reflected this renewed confidence.

■ Japanese-speaking Patricia Preneta is a senior investment manager in Britannia's Far East team. The Britannia Japan Performance Fund showed a rise of 5.5% in August and 13.7% in September.



Source: Unit Trust Management

Now the outlook has brightened. The Japanese government is encouraging consumer spending, so that while exported blue chips were still weak in the third quarter.

MORE CALL FOR MONEY ADVICE

A recent survey showed that only 20% of adults in the U.K. made regular use of professional financial advisers. Some 36% of respondents claimed never once to have discussed financial affairs with anyone.

Clearly, we have a long way to go to rival the average American's interest in stocks and investments. But times are changing: the British Telecom issue created a million new equity holders, more people are keen to receive financial advice than ever before and new facilities like Britannia's MoneyGuide are popular.

MONEYGUIDE:
CALL FREE
0800-010 333

MoneyGuide provides, via BT's LinkLine, a FREE telephone service that brings to the investor a wide range of financial skills. Six experts specialise in different markets and sectors and in investors' concerns such as tax problems, etc. The MoneyGuide number for free calls is 0800-010 333.

dialled from anywhere in the U.K. (weekdays 9.30-5.30). A special facility for unitholders with as little as £5,000 invested with Britannia is its Personal Investment Management Service (PIMS), which provides continuous monitoring of a client's total portfolio.

To: Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited, 74/75 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1JD or dial free 0800-010 333. Please send details of: Britannia International High Income Fund ☐ PIMS service ☐ Britannia Japan Performance Fund ☐ Other funds (please specify) _____

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FUNDS ON FORM

Top performers from around the world

High ranking funds over 12 months included these three sector funds as of October 1:
American funds: Britannia American Income Trust (1st out of 28 funds); Britannia American Growth Trust (1st out of 28 funds); Britannia American Share Trust (1st out of 33 funds); Gilt and Fixed Interest funds: Britannia Growth Gilt Trust (1st out of 24 funds); Britannia Hong Kong Performance Fund - was second over the same period out of 36 Far East funds.
Other Britannia funds in the top ten over various periods were: Smaller Companies, Recovery, American Growth, Japan Performance and Australian Growth Source: Financial Services.

RACING: BROWNE'S GAZETTE SET TO GAIN REPEAT VICTORY IN NEWCASTLE'S FIGHTING FIFTH HURDLE

Buck House can atone for Cheltenham lapse

By Michael Phillips

Having failed to deliver the goods at Cheltenham last Saturday when he started favourite for the Mackeson Cup, Buck House is on a retributive mission today when his objective is the H and T Walker Goddess Chase.

At Cheltenham those who had backed Buck House down to 5-2 knew their fate very early on because he slipped going into the first fence, hit it and dislodged Tommy Carmody. As the ground, which had become greasy after a few hours of rain, was to blame for that error, it is inclined to overlook it and so for Buck House who is normally the best of jumpers, especially on ground as fast as it will be today.

In his first season over fences Buck House was never out of the first four, winning six of 11 chases. That is not the record of a chancy jumper. Since Cheltenham he has been bounding with Richard Hannon at Ascot, where he has won five of 11 races. Hannon assured me that his visitor was none the worse for his Cheltenham mishap; that he had worked and schooled well since, and that his Irish trainer "Mouse" Morris was there to put the finishing touches to a preparation which is expected to bear fruit this time.

Having won over two and a half miles in Ireland, today's distance should not be a problem even though Buck House's best form is to be found in shorter races. It was over two miles at Cheltenham last March that he was runner-up to Boreen Prince in the Arkle Challenge Trophy. On that occasion he had just won the trophy just behind in third place. Now I expect him to confirm that superiority even on 3lb worse terms.

The South-western of the county championship tomorrow will decide the last two places to be filled in the national rounds. The winners of the match at Horsham between Sussex and Buckinghamshire will play the preliminary round, Hampshire are at home to Surrey at Fareham and the winners there will play in the quarter-finals.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington weakened by injuries

By Keith Macklin

The Whitwind New Zealand tour ends with something of an anticlimax at Hull tomorrow and their inclusion in the county championship, the top league side who are at Warrington, where Warrington who have recovered well from their thrashing and tawdry performance against Wigan in the Lancashire Cup final, share top place with Hull.

They enter another in-form side in Halifax, but find themselves weakened by injuries sustained in the hard-earned victory at Bradford. The county championship tomorrow are Dunsen, Webb and Jackson, and Kelly, their experienced half-back, is also out of the game due to suspension. In view of this, Warrington are in a bit of a bind, and the coach, who is seeking their first win at Warrington for 16 years.

Another top side, Widnes, will be without Burke, Myler and Elwell for their home game against Salford. But, with a good squad, a promoted side struggling to make an impact on the first division, St Helens visits Bradford Northern, and their injury absentee is Connah, the goal-kicking Australian.

Wigan's gully should continue at Featherstone, whom they trounced 62-10 a week ago, but they are without Goodway and Case, their international forwards, and regard Featherstone as a bogey ground.

The in-form side in the second division are Rochdale Hornets, who seek their ninth successive victory at Huddersfield. They have a strong forward line, returns after a shoulder injury, Fulham take the lion's head, to Cumbria to face Workington Town, and may be gloomy about the outcome.

ICE SKATING

New ground is broken but standard lower

By John Hennessy

The British ice dance championship moves to new ground today, the best of it, the essential business is to be held during the day, rather than in the evening, and the free dance and original set patterns will be screened live on Nottingham this afternoon.

The broadcast will therefore have the impact of immediacy, but nothing can disguise the fact that the competition is likely to be the weakest in quality for many a long year.

Hard on the memorable heels of Torvill and Dean, last year's champions, Barber and Slater, have also vanished, together with the bronze medal winners, Wilkinson and Pinos. The seven couples today, indeed, include only three of the six who competed last year. Sharon Jones and Paul Ashton, the clear favourites after their silver medals last year.

Jones (21) and Ashton (23) 15th in the world championship last year, may now have been handicapped by excessive demands made on them by the National Skating Association, having to compete too early, and too often at the cost of a degree of work under pressure.

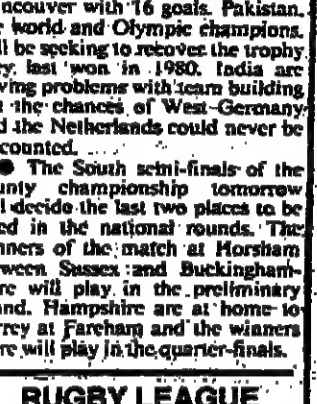
The programme will be bolstered by exhibitions by John Curry, one of Britain's Olympic champions before Britain's golden age drew to an end.



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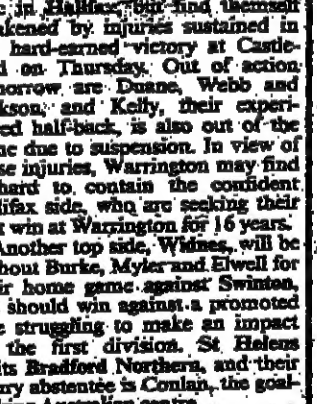
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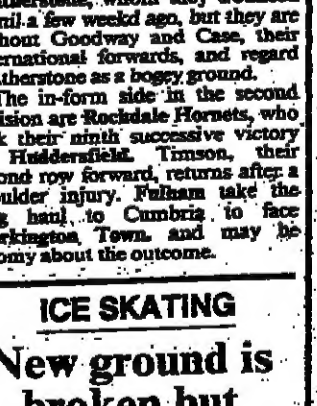
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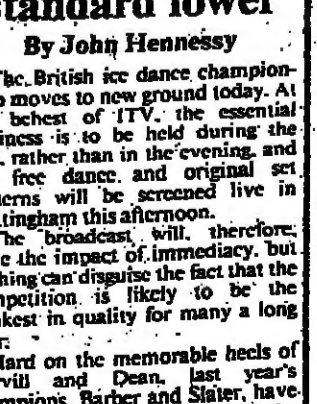
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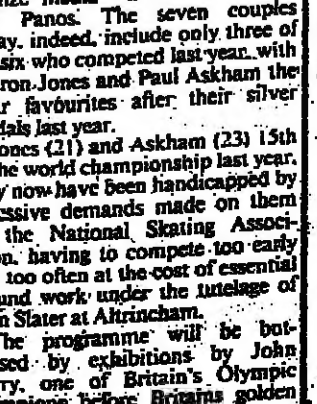
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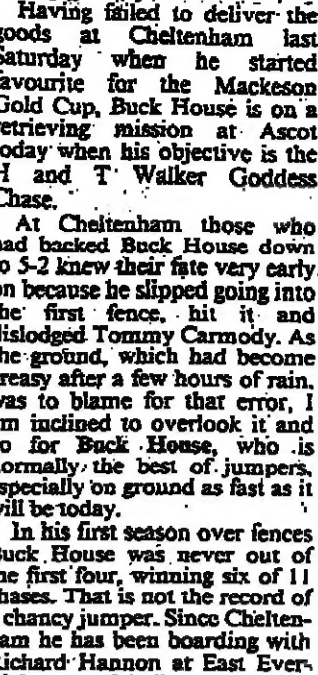
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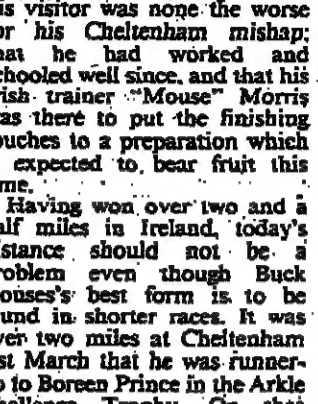
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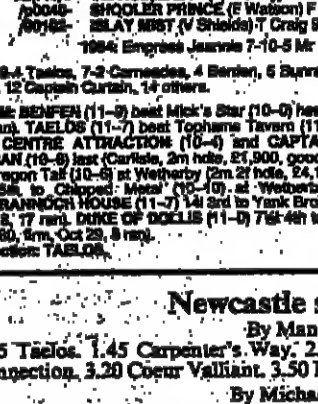
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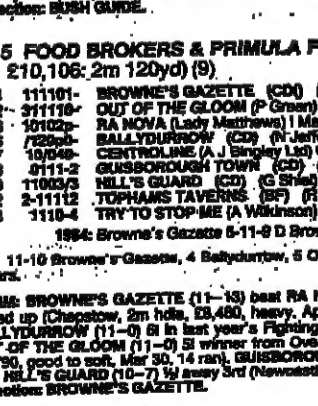
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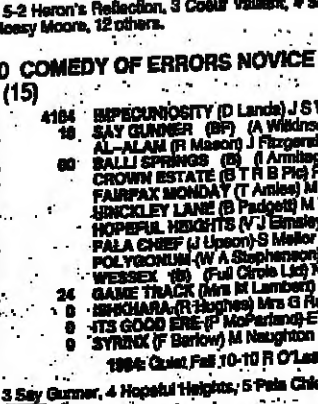
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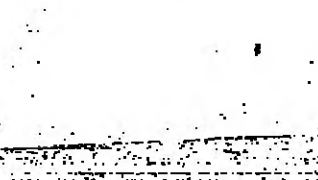
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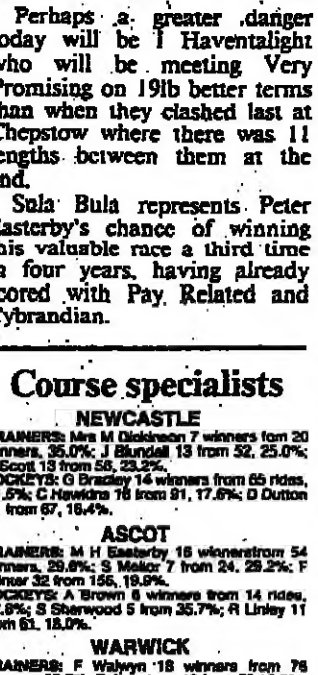
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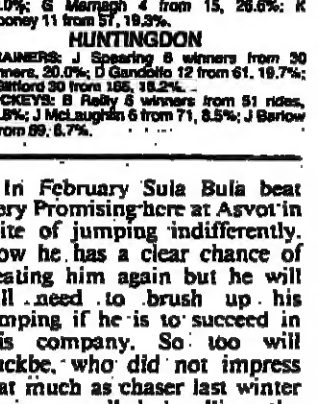
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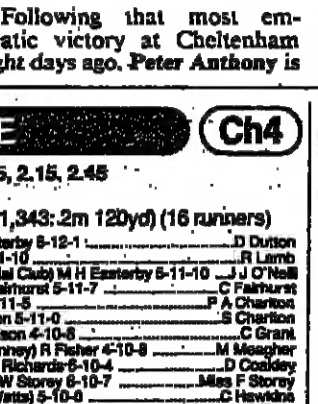
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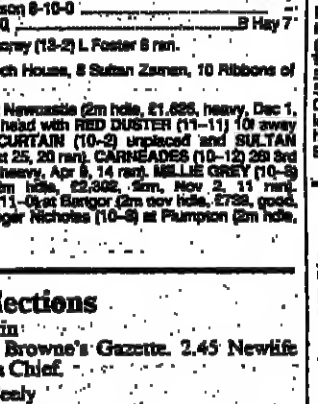
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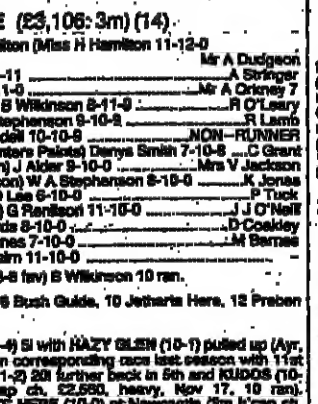
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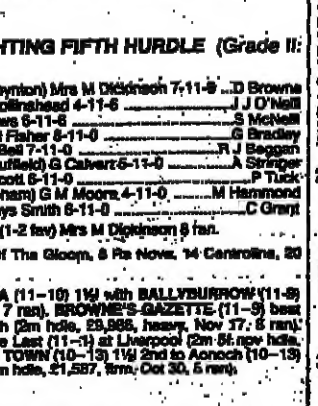
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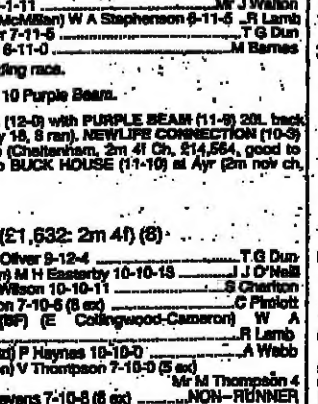
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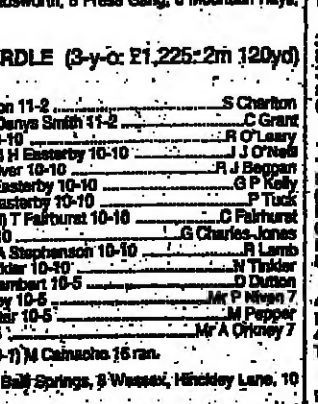
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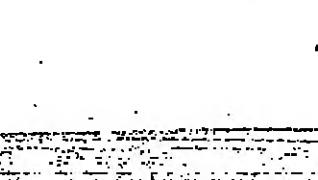
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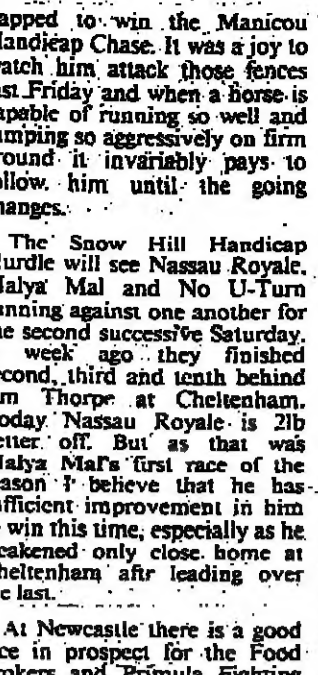
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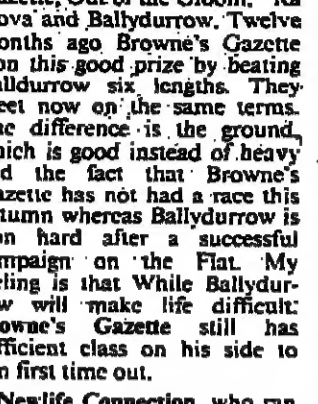
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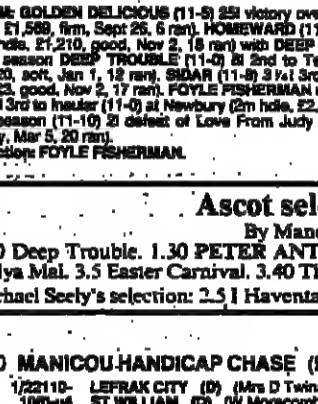
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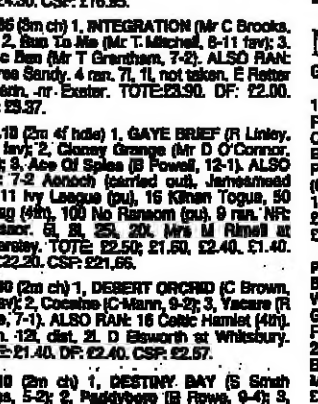
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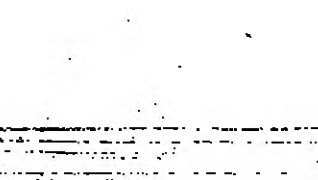
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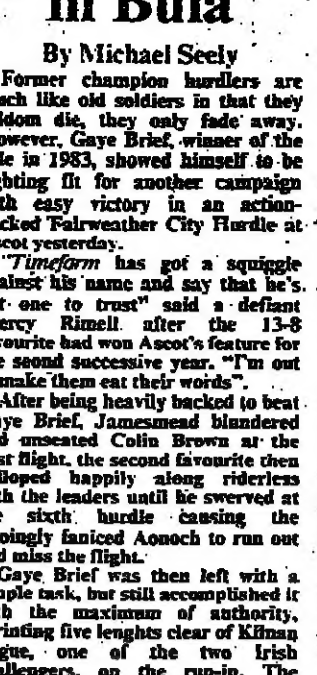
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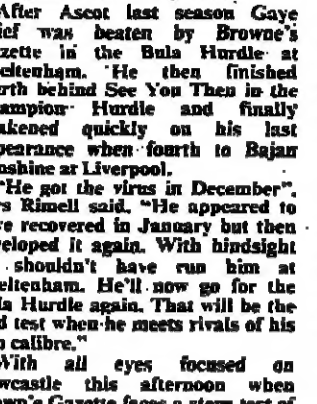
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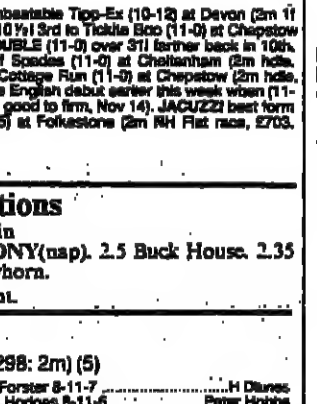
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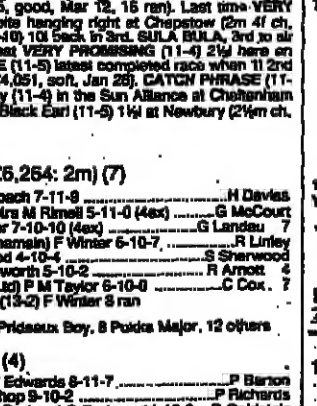
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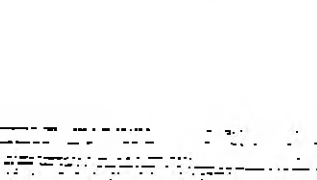
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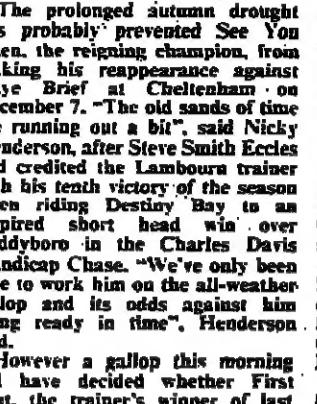
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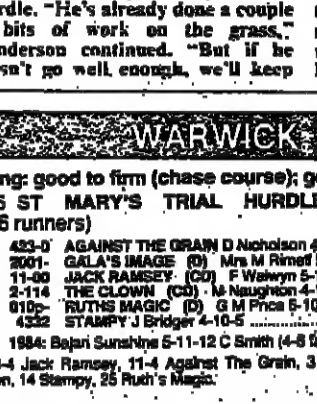
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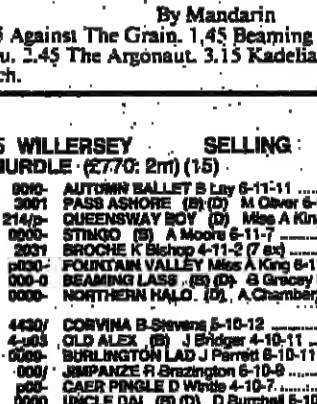
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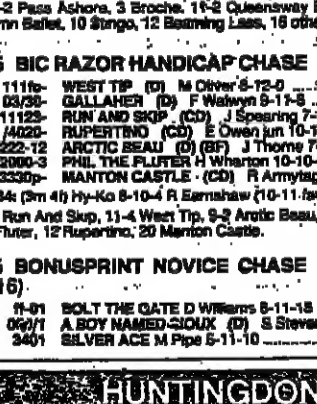
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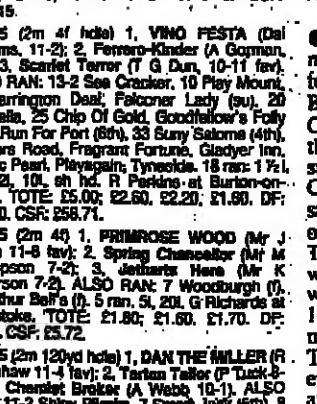
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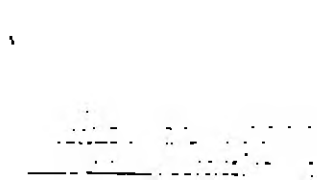
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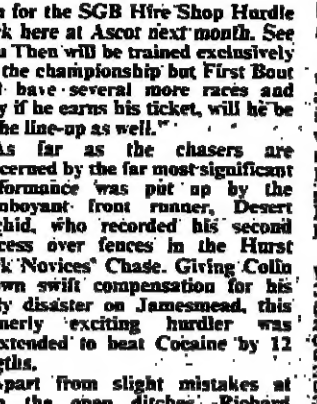
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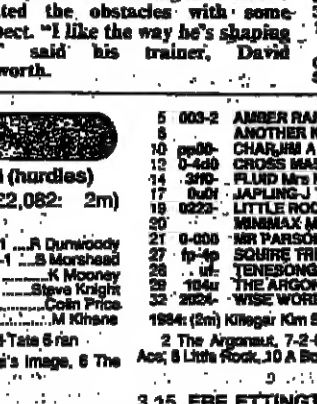
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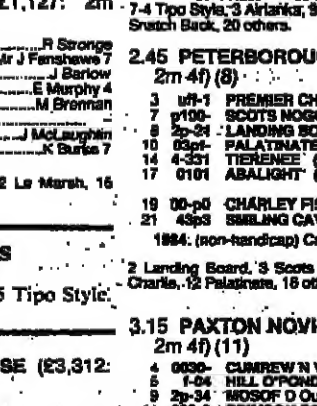
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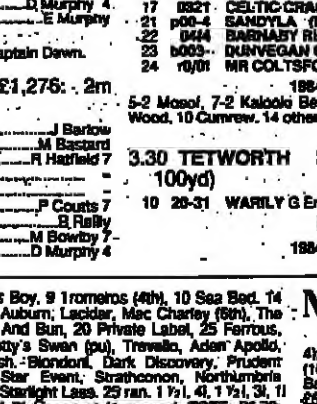
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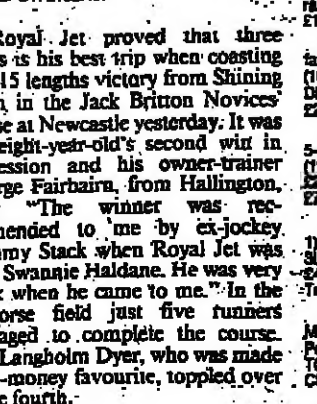
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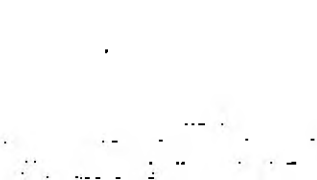
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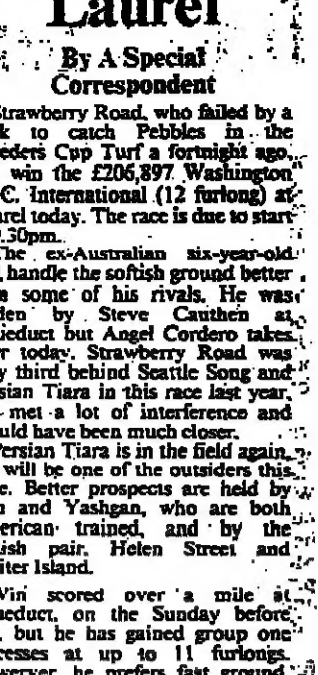
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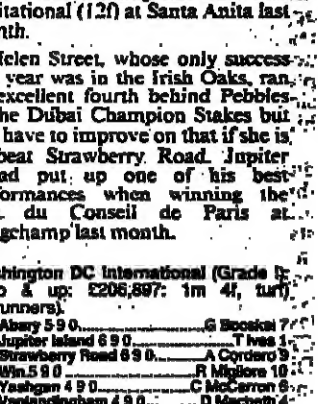
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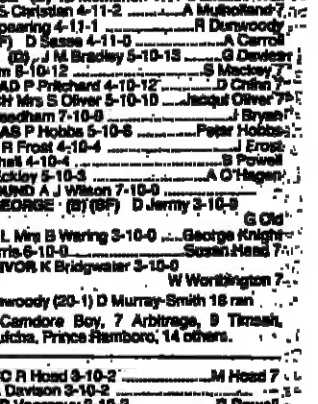
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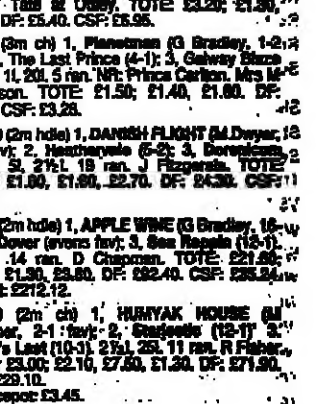
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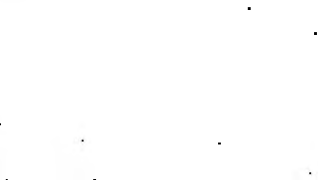
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